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News on page 14
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THURSDAY, JANUARY 23RD, 2014

Out and About with The GEM
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Wales and the Six Nations
SEE FEATURE ON PAGES 16-17

'CLEVER AND BRAVE' 11-YEAR-OLD GIRL FEIGNED SLEEP AND PHONED FOR HELP

SERIAL BURGLAR GETS SENTENCE OF SIX YEARS, EIGHT MONTHS

Craig Dibble.

A SERIAL burglar who waged a campaign of crime in the Penarth, Dinas Powys and Barry areas has been jailed for six years, eight months, at Cardiff Crown Court, *writes AJ SICLUNA.*

Craig Dibble, 28, often broke into the homes of pensioners and once disturbed an 11-year-old girl, who was staying with her grandparents.

Said Judge Stephen Hopkins QC: "Burglary is not simply an offence against property, which can sometimes be replaced. It is an offence against the person as well, and people believe their homes have been violated."

Dibble, of Cornwall Road, Barry, admitted 11 charges involving burglary, stealing a car, stealing car number plates, driving while disqualified, shoplifting and taking a car without consent.

He also asked the court to take into consideration three further offences of burglary.

The judge said Dibble had started committing crime when he was 14 and the present offences could only be described as a campaign, which began within a few weeks of his last release from prison. Some of the burglaries terrified victims and one householder had nightmares.

The 11-year-old, who spotted Dibble in her bedroom dressed in black, was "frightened stiff", but pretended to be asleep and "brave and clever" telephoned her grandparents in the next bedroom.

Prosecutor John Lloyd said Dibble burgled a house in St Fagans Avenue, Barry, while the pensioner occupants were asleep, took the car keys and drove off in their Ford Ka.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 7)

DIDN'T WE DO WELL?

ABOVE: There was plenty for Ysgol Gymraeg Sant Curig to celebrate as the school was rated top in the whole of Wales in 'Key Stage 2'.

PRIMARY SCHOOL IS 'TOP OF THE FORM' IN WALES!

A BARRY primary school is rated top throughout the whole of Wales in a crucial area of education.

Ysgol Gymraeg Sant Curig in College Road, Barry, ranked first in 'Key Stage 2' out of 1,321 schools across the country.

by **GEM** REPORTER

The achievement, revealed in a national survey, was announced on January 15.

The survey listed every primary school in Wales according to 21 different government approved measures.

The survey did not just focus on academic achievement, it also examined how well schools helped pupils make progress.

Overall, Ysgol Gymraeg Sant Curig was listed a highly impressive eighth place in the whole of Wales.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 6)

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Readers' Letters

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'Fire station plan a backward step'

IT is with great regret that I hear we will be losing our full time fire station in Cowbridge at the end of March this year.

For the past 40 odd years, we have had a full time crew in Cowbridge, always there in case of a fire in the town or a road accident on the A48 or on the minor roads.

Now, thanks to the Tory cuts, we will have to wait for part timers to respond to calls to the station.

This will, of course, delay the turnout of the fire engine (assuming that they will be able to muster a full crew).

The nearest full time fire stations to back up Cowbridge are Bridgend and Barry, with part time stations in Llantwit Major and Pontyclun. So let's hope we don't have any serious incidents.

I would like to thank the full time crews of Cowbridge for the comforting knowledge of always being there for the needs of the people of Cowbridge and the surrounding area.

What a step backwards at a time when there is talk of building more houses in Cowbridge.

Mr PS Knight, Cowbridge.

'Horrified' over solar park plans

THE hamlets of West Aberthaw and Gileston were horrified when the Vale Council made the decision on Thursday night to rubber-stamp an application for a solar park.

The residents, who have to live with this in their back gardens were not listened to. The reason that this is going ahead is simply because of pressure being put on local councils by the UK Government to provide more renewable energy locally.

It is these residents, who have lived in these localities for many years, who have to now put up with these panels in their back yards.

We all need to be aware of the impact these solar park developments are going to have on the local countryside.

Carol Harrington, West Aberthaw.

'Support workers of the future'

I WOULD like to bring to the attention of local firms, that if we are to maintain our engineering skill-set in Wales, the Welsh Government and local industry have to assist young students who are seeking work placements.

Whilst I fully understand the implications of young persons in the work place from a health and safety aspect, it is frustrating when companies do not even bother to reply to requests for work placement.

I have a 16 year-old son who is trying to get a work placement in any local engineering company – currently to no avail. The Welsh Government has been promoting engineering skills in Wales; however, students taking A levels are finding it increasingly difficult to find placements.

I would implore local industries to take up the gauntlet and support the students of today who will be the work force of tomorrow.

Mrs JL Rogers, Llantwit Major.

*• Email your letters to The Editor at: **gemeditorial@tindlenews.co.uk** including **FULL NAME,ADDRESS, AND TELEPHONE NUMBER**.*

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No playing politics with education...

'The true facts about schooling in the Vale'

I FEEL I must respond to the misleading letters from Coun Richard Bertin and Alun Cairns MP, regarding the Scrutiny Committee report on schools in the Vale of Glamorgan.

They are clearly keen to play politics with an obsolete report, which was rejected by the cabinet over six months ago.

I would like to give some facts, as opposed to the scare-mongering which they seem to relish, that only causes concern for parents, staff and – most importantly – pupils.

Fact 1: The report was produced by the Scrutiny Committee, Lifelong Learning, and chaired by Coun Nic Hodges. For the avoidance of doubt, at no point did a member of the Vale cabinet take part in the working group that developed/wrote the report.

Fact 2: The working group was cross-party and included 'Independent' councillors.

Fact 3: Scrutiny Committees can compile reports and make recommendations to cabinet (as they did on this occasion), but they are not the decision makers. Only cabinet or council can make decisions and in this case, the cabinet rejected the report, several months ago – as reported widely in the press.

Fact 4: The report was not kept under part two or 'secret' by the Vale Labour-Llantwit First cabinet, but instead by the Scrutiny Committee. I would like to make it clear at no point did I, or any other member of the cabinet, agree to the report being kept in part two (secret), as it wasn't our report, it was the Scrutiny Committee's report.

Fact 5: Any explanation as to why the Scrutiny Committee made those recommendations would need to be explained by its Chair, Coun Nic Hodges. As the cabinet member for children's services, I cannot explain a report that I had no part in developing or writing.

Fact 6: It is a shame Coun Bertin has chosen to mislead the public suggesting 'What's next?' If he had bothered to read the various cabinet reports I have published in recent months (all a matter of public record) he would have seen that the cabinet have put forward alternative proposals to deliver improvements to our schools right across the Vale of Glamorgan.

Fact 7: Both Mr Cairns and Mr Bertin make reference to Colcot Primary School in Barry, claiming we have a hidden agenda, whereas in reality we are working with the headteacher and have agreed a redevelopment fund of £500,000 for the school, and confirmed a new Flying Start centre will be located at the school. Again, this has all been reported in the press.

Fact 8: Mr Cairns has at no point, according to our records, made any formal representations to me or any other member of the cabinet over the Scrutiny Committee's report.

So, while sound bites in the press are one thing, actually doing something positive is quite different.

Finally, and importantly, the cabinet since rejecting the Scrutiny Committee report have put forward a clear strategy for schools throughout the Vale of Glamorgan, all of which is in the public domain.

There will always be more to do, but I make one clear pledge to every parent, carer, governor, member of staff and pupil across our schools – I will never play politics with education – in my view it is simply too important.

Coun Chris Elmore, Barry
(Cabinet member for children's services) Vale of Glamorgan Council.

'Peggy will be remembered for her kindness'

JUST after Christmas, the town of Barry lost one of its most respected, loved and well-known characters on the death of Mrs Peggy Taylor.

Her charitable work in Barry Island and, more recently, throughout the town, involved supporting numerous worthy causes too many to mention.

Her kindness and readiness at all times to encourage and support anyone in need of help was legendary.

It was only when she was frustrated by failing eyesight that she had to retire from charitable work and accept help herself.

Peggy was a well-loved matriarch to her family, who gave her great support, especially when she encountered health problems – and her pride and happiness in her family was evident to everyone who knew her.

One who had a firm Christian faith, she has now surely gone to her reward and will be welcomed with the words "Well done thou good and faithful servant."

W Haydn Burgess, Barry.

GREAT LEAP BACKWARDS?

IT fills me with horror that with council reorganisation we may be merged with Cardiff.

I am more than satisfied with our refuse collection service, whilst Cardiff council is proposing monthly black bag collection – potentially a great leap backwards.

Rhodri Williams, Llantwit Major.

Plaid prescription is... more doctors

WE all agree that Wales needs a National Health Service that is fit for the twenty-first century; however, Wales currently has the worst doctor to population ratio in the UK and one of the worst across the whole of the European Union.

It doesn't have to be like this. Plaid Cymru's plans will increase the number of doctors in Wales by 1,000 to bring us up to the UK average.

This is a 'Wales can' approach, in contrast to the Welsh Government's proposals to remove core services across Wales, because they think that Wales can't.

These doctors can be provided through a number of means. We could do this by providing financial incentives, such as additional bursaries or paying off tuition fees to doctors who stay in Wales and work in hard-to-fill posts.

We can also increase the amount of medical research in Wales and attract greater research funding, bringing well-known specialists to Wales.

We should increase the capacity of our medical schools to train more doctors and encourage more of our young people to go into medicine as well as staying in Wales.

In the short term, to get the numbers up, we should be working to attract well-qualified doctors from elsewhere in the EU to help treat our elderly and sick while our next generation of doctors are being trained.

Wales should have a 21st century NHS, but it will only get one if it has a Plaid Cymru government which believes that Wales can.

Coun Ian Johnson, Barry.
Plaid Cymru – the Party of Wales

'Clamp down on fly tipping'

Tiles dumped near Llangan.

FLY tipping remains a huge problem in the Vale, with known hot spots suffering repeated dumping.

This is costing tax payers thousands of pounds for the council to remove. This money could be better used on other essential services.

There is actually no need for fly tipping, with facilities at Llandow and Barry that facilitate free rubbish dumping. This rubbish is also recycled and, therefore, good for the environment.

The picture (above) shows tiles that were dumped near Llangan. Anyone who has recently had a bathroom or kitchen renovated, may not be aware that a contractor has illegally dumped the waste.

If you recognise these tiles, please call the environmental team at the Vale Council.

Fly tipping is unacceptable and leaves the environment dirty and scruffy – and in some cases is harmful to health, when dangerous substances are dumped.

Martin Jones, Graig Penllyn.

'Hit dog owners in their pockets'

ONCE again, some 'caring' dog walkers have managed to have a total disregard for the pedestrians who use the pavements of Highlight Park, Barry.

I walk regularly to Tesco and did so this morning. In total, I side-stepped at least a dozen separate 'dog deposits'.

The owners seem to care little that the majority of pavement users are most likely to be the elderly and young mums going about their business.

It's a pity that it wasn't a punishable offence to dog walk without the necessary bags on your person.

Maybe as 'Big Brother' tightens his grip, one day all dogs will be DNA'd and the errant owners swiftly brought to justice... This should be a massive fine. Hit them in their pockets!

Ken Morgan, Barry.

HIGH TIDE TIMES
(UNTIL JANUARY 30)

The high tides listed in this week's GEM are those in Porthcawl. It should be remembered that along the coast, high tide times will vary. For instance, in Barry, the high point will be 20 – 25 minutes later.

DATE	Time AM	Ht M	Time PM	Ht M
23 Thur	10.27	8.6	22.53	8.4
24 Fri	11.15	8.2	23.47	8.1
25 Sat			12.17	8.0
26 Sun	00.53	7.9	13.38	7.8
27 Mon	02.26	7.9	14.54	8.1
28 Tues	03.36	8.5	16.07	8.7
29 Wed	04.39	9.2	17.06	9.4
30 Thur	05.39	9.9	18.07	10.0

While The GEM makes every effort to check the accuracy of tide tables, we recommend that anyone putting out to sea, or walking in an area where they could be cut off, should check with a tide table specific to their location.

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Government insists money spent in normal way but...

'Lost millions is an injustice'

– *Pride in Barry campaigner insists*

THE chairman of Pride in Barry described the Welsh Government's statement that money raised in the town had gone to fund projects elsewhere in Wales as 'an injustice', writes TIM CHAPMAN.

Mr Paul Haley pointed out that other high-profile areas such as Cardiff had been allowed to re-invest cash raised from local land receipts.

Last week in The GEM, Mr Haley highlighted what he termed the 'Barry Deficit' – a £17.7 million difference between the money raised from land sales, £74.5 million, and money spent, £56.7 million.

The Welsh Government pointed out the sales had taken place a number of years ago and the extra money had been used for projects in other areas which was "normal budgetary practice".

This week, returning to the fray, Mr Haley insisted the 'deficit' cash should have stayed in the town because it suffers from deprivation itself.

"Pride In Barry notes the Welsh Government has accepted that they have spent the £17.7million Barry deficit monies, made through sale of land in Barry, elsewhere in Wales.

"This money could have been used in areas of Barry with significant social deprivation at no net cost to the taxpayer and clearly it is a social injustice to all Barrians.

"It could have also been used to enable undercover attractions at Barry Island, a pump-primer for a marina, and a watersports centre, which was the original intention of the Barry regeneration programme 20 years ago.

"It is a further injustice when other areas have been able to recycle their land receipts within their areas, such as Cardiff, Swansea and Newport.

"We challenge the Welsh Government to identify where the Barry £17.7million deficit has been allocated and to state whether it produced better returns than it could have in Barry – this would indicate whether investment appraisals and value for money considerations of public monies were considered and have been monitored."

ISLAND ROAD

Mr Haley also said he would not describe the £2m for an Island road provided by the Welsh Government as an "investment".

"We note the irony of the Welsh Government identifying the £2million 'investment' in the Barry Island Road, when in fact this is a repayable loan.

"At the very least this should be a non-repayable grant, from the Barry deficit."

Barry councillor Ian Johnson of Plaid Cymru said he believed decision-makers had lacked foresight in assessing Barry's future.

"Barry has been let down, not just financially, but by a lack of vision from those in charge.

"As a Barry boy, I believe that the town has huge potential and that we must work with the private sector to create jobs within Barry – linking the town centre, the Waterfront and the Island to create a vibrant community.

"It was Plaid Cymru deputy minister Jocelyn Davies who gave Barry regeneration status in 2010, and almost £10million to improve the town, but the current Welsh Government shamefully ended both regeneration status and the funding.

"I have asked for a report on the progress of future regeneration projects in Barry at the council's next economy and environment scrutiny meeting. We can't allow Barry to continue to miss out."

'SHORT CHANGED'

Local MP Alun Cairns claimed it was a case of "Barry being taken for granted. Barry is the biggest town in Wales and has its own huge potential and can support great facilities. If we include all the figures from the activity on the Waterfront, we can show that Barry achieves a very high return on public investment.

"I challenge them (the Welsh Government) to come up with any other community that has achieved the same.

"For too long Barry and the rest of the Vale has been taken for granted.

"We all know that the Vale is short changed in the annual funding from Cardiff Bay. Returning the money they received from sale of our land would go a long way to correcting the shortfall."

Labour's Coun Chris Elmore acknowledged that missing out on a recent regeneration bid had been a blow, but stressed efforts to secure more funding would go on.

"The Welsh Government decision not to award Barry regeneration funding was extremely disappointing and in my view misguided. The Labour-Llantwit First administration has been absolutely clear on this.

"I would support the Welsh Government giving Barry more funding for regeneration to ensure we can continue with the redevelopment of Barry Island, the town centre and deliver new facilities for people right across the town.

"The recent news on the new road to Barry Island was an example of such funding and we continue to discuss opportunities for future support with the Welsh Government.

"In the current financial and economic climate, I accept this is difficult, but we must look at every avenue possible to secure funding for the town."

The GEM put Mr Haley's comments to the Welsh Government. A spokesman said it did not want to make further comments because "its position was clear".

Last week, a Government spokesperson had emphasised: "The sale of land took place a number of years ago and any money raised would have been used to fund projects across Wales, in line with normal budgetary practice."

Rhoose woman in the frame for bravery award

'LOLLIPOP LADY' Karin Williams has been nominated for a top bravery award, following dramatic events in Rhoose last year that made her a national heroine.

The St David Awards scheme elebrates the exceptional achievements of people in Wales, with the final being held on March 13 at the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama in Cardiff.

The awards go to people who did not simply do their jobs, but who have really made a difference to the quality of life in Wales – and Karin's story exemplifies this.

On June 20 last year, Karin, the school crossing patrol lady for more than 10 years at Rhws Primary School, was one of the victims of a freak accident when a driver lost control of his car.

Just before 9am, the crossing outside the school was at its busiest when the car came towards Karin and a group of children and parents at the crossing.

Witnesses describe that Karin instinctively went to protect the youngsters, throwing herself in the way of the car and taking the full impact of the blow.

Karin was pinned underneath the car, which had flipped onto its roof.

She suffered serious injuries, fracturing both knee caps and arms.

She also broke a shoulder and her two legs, which meant she spent the next nine weeks in hospital.

Leader of the Vale Council, Coun Neil Moore, said this week: "I was delighted to nominate Karin for a St David Award on behalf of the Vale Council, and being shortlisted is recognition of her brave actions.

"On behalf of the people of the Vale, I wish Karin good luck with the awards ceremony in March."

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38. Chicken or Lamb Chilli Massala ..£5.90
Bonelsess chicken cooked with fresh ginger a touch of garlic and green chilli
39. Sabzee Gosth....£5.90
Lamb cooked with vegetables in a thick spicy bhuna sauces
40. Achari Murg £5.90
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41. Murghi Massala....£5.90
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42. Saag Gosth £5.90
43. Chicken Rhan....£5.90
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44. Madhu Murgh £5.90
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66. Paneer Pasanda £5.00
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Sea Scouts celebrate their 90th birthday

LOCAL Scouts are marking their 90th anniversary this year and are looking for past boys, girls and leaders of the 11th Barry Sea Scouts and 13th Barry (1st Island) groups to join us in the celebrations.

Spokesman Brian Foley said: "It is recorded at Gilwell that the group was first registered on November 26, 1941. However, records found at the Glamorgan Archives show that the group existed on May 1, 1924.

"We also believe that the group existed before this – and possibly before the start of the first World War – as the group was presented with a standard by Arthur Copp, in memory of Private Sydney Copp. He died fighting for his country at Vis-en-Artois, France on September 5, 1918, aged 19.

"Prior to enlisting, Sydney lived at Edgehill, Victoria Park Road, Cadoxton, with parents William and Mary. If anyone knows the whereabouts of any surviving relatives of Private Copp, or if you are related to the family, please contact us by email at GSL@11thbarryscouts.org.uk or by telephone 07779 658 331."

End this 'polystyrene madness' on beaches

ENVIRONMENTAL group The Friends of Barry Beaches has launched a petition calling on the Welsh Government to ban the use of polystyrene fast food and drinks containers throughout Wales.

They say they are "sick and tired" of removing thousands of polystyrene fast food and hot drink containers from local Welsh beaches especially when there are bio-degradable alternatives (cardboard or cornstarch) readily available on the market.

The chairman of the group, Coun Rob Curtis, said: "We now need the support of the people of Wales to finally put an end to this fast food polystyrene madness.

"Our beach cleaning volunteers are sick and tired of removing thousands of items of polystyrene from our beaches each year.

"These products are made from petroleum, a non-sustainable and heavily polluting resource.

"Just last month the City Council of New York unanimously decided to vote for a ban on polystyrene food containers. It is now time for the Welsh Government to take a lead and vote to protect our communities, our countryside and our beaches from this horrendous blight."

People who want to sign the online petition should go to: www.assemblywales.org/gethome/epetitions.

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Rush (15)
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All Saints say 'thank you' with an organ recital

ABOVE: The renovated organ at All Saints.

AS a thank you to all those who organised and supported the many fundraising events, pipe sponsorship scheme and gave donations to the organ appeal, there will be a free organ recital on February 1, at All Saints' Church, Barry.

Over the last two and half years, a grand total of £70,000 was raised for crucial organ repairs.

The full scheme of works was completed in September 2013 and the organ was re-dedicated by the Archbishop of Llandaff, the Very Reverend Barry Morgan on November 24.

The recital will be performed from 12pm to 12.45pm by Canon Graham Holcombe, organist at Llandaff Cathedral with tea/coffee prior to the recital being served in the church hall from 11.15am to 11.45am.

Church doors open at 11.45am. All are welcome.

ANN ELLIOTT

Ashley raises £1,000 for Velindre – by a whisker!

ASHLEY, the Dinas Powys street sanitation engineer for the Vale Council, has raised over £1,000 for Velindre Hospital through a sponsored beard-growing event.

The money raised is to go to the cancer unit at the hospital.

Ashley started growing his beard in October 2013, and with the support of local businesses in Dinas Powys and Pontypool, had raised £1,000 by December 20, his scheduled 'beard removal' night.

Held in the Three Horseshoes public house in Dinas Powys, ably assisted by Mark from Head to Head hairdressers and a cast of several bar customers, Ashley's beard was removed. Spurred on by the support he received in the Three Horseshoes, Ashley raised a further £100 from the customers present and completed the evening by having his head shaved by those that raised the extra money.

Ashley would like to thank everyone who pledged money for his sponsored beard growing and the following businesses for their support in helping him raise this extraodinary amount of money for Velindre Hospital:

Mark Grffiths Family Butchers, The Three Horseshoes, Cross Keys, Head to Head Hairdressers, all of Dinas Powys, and S M Tyres, Clarence Corner, Pontypool.

NICK BROOMFIELD

ASHLEY BEFORE...

ASHLEY AFTER.

CLASSIC CAR SHOW HELPS CHARITY

THE Vale of Glamorgan Classic Car Show is returning to Sully on May 26 (Bank Holiday Monday) and Dinas Powys Rotary Club has announced its chosen charity this year is to be the 'Noah's Ark Appeal', the only charity exclusively fundraising for the Children's Hospital for Wales.

Further details, or entry form, can be found on the show web site at www.valeofglamorganclassiccarshow.net.

Bus service confusion

LOCAL MP Alun Cairns has questioned what he claims are "conflicting statements" made by Cardiff Bus, the Welsh Government and the Vale Council on the future of the 98 bus service.

He said Cardiff Bus told him before Christmas that unless there was an increase in the numbers of users, or an increase in public subsidy, the 98 service was likely to be discontinued.

Yet, it has been claimed by Barry Coun Richard Bertin that the Transport Minister, Edwina Hart has stated the service was not to be cut.

Mr Cairns said: "I will be absolutely delighted if the rumours I have heard are true. However, I have not had any official notification that the service has been saved.

"At my recent meeting with Cardiff Bus and Watts Coaches, I was encouraged by the discussion, but it is now in the hands of the Vale Council to engage with the companies to find solutions.

"This is not only on the 98 service, but for bus services across the Vale – which are a priority with local residents.

"The petition that is being co-ordinated by Elwyn Toozer is still being signed by many residents who are concerned."

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Court Road Fire Station in line for renovation

Court Road's Fire Station could be transformed into eight flats.

ONE of the town's most familiar buildings, Court Road Fire Station, which was constructed in 1901, might be converted into flats.

A planning application has been submitted to turn it into eight residences.

Originally, planning had been agreed in 2010 for seven flats, two offices and a single retain unit.

The grade-2 listed building is distinctive for its contrasting light brick, red brick appearance, its three lower archways and tower

In more recent years, it was used by Barry Amateur Boxing Club.

A sold sign has been placed on the outside of the building.

BARRY PUPILS' JOY AT SURVEY

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The pupils, staff and governors were "thrilled" that their achievements had been recognised.

The head teacher Sian Owen said: "This is an exceptional achievement for Ysgol Gymraeg Sant Curig and we are all incredibly excited and proud.

"All pupils, staff, governors and parents work hard in support of the school and fully deserve to be recognised in this way for the progress made by every pupil in the school."

The Vale Council hailed it a notable achievement.

Coun Chris Elmore, the cabinet member for children's services, said:

"To be ranked first in Wales is a fantastic accomplishment. I am delighted that all the hard work by everyone at the school has been acknowledged."

'Care home residents need stability' – elderly champion

THE Older People's Commissioner for Wales praised dedicated staff at a local care home as she marked its 25th birthday by presenting long-service awards.

ABOVE: Staff members Pat Scanlan, Tessy Thomas and Shelly Jones with the local Assembly Member Jane Hutt.

Sarah Rochira visited College Fields Nursing Home in Barry for an event which also celebrated 100 years since the building was constructed – originally as a training college.

She presented long service awards to 16 staff, including an employee who has worked at College Fields since the first day it opened. She said that the longevity of staff illustrated the homely environment created for the 65 residents, who vary in age from 52 to 104-years-old and have significant care needs, with only two being able to walk.

The visit formed part of the commissioner's 'Engagement Roadshow', which met over 5,400 people at 180 events across Wales in 2013.

She said: "It is important to remember that places like College Fields are people's homes and residents need stability. The long-term service of staff helps to illustrate the community spirit built up here and shows that residents are regarded as friends and this is indeed their home."

College Fields was opened by Mike Kemp in 1989 and he runs the home with his wife Rachel, who has been the matron for 20 years. Every five years they give long service awards.

Rachel Kemp said: "We are involved in very technical nursing, giving 24-hour care to people with a wide variety of needs. The awards day is a way of rewarding staff and celebrating with residents and their families.

"All but two of the residents are from the Barry area, and many find they already know some of the staff when they arrive. It is a real community home for the area."

ABOVE: Sarah Rochira spent time talking to residents and learning about their experiences.

Awards for 25-year service went to chef Sheila Dodd, deputy matron Ann Gore and housekeepers Maria Everett, Julie Lewis and Jenny Morris, who worked the first shift on the very first day College Fields opened.

Matron Rachel Kemp received an award for 20 years' service, along with diversional therapist Pam Foley and care assistant Laurence Richards.

For 15 years' service, deputy chef Claire Swarts and senior care assistant Sian Kedward were recognised.

Awards were also handed to floor managers Rhian Evans-Cooper and Simi Matthews, nurses Mary Tomeldan and Tessy Thomas and senior care assistants Chris Coslett and Richard Tomeldan, who have been at College Fields for 10 years.

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL

(PROHIBITION AND RESTRICTION OF WAITING AND LOADING AND PARKING PLACES) (CIVIL ENFORCEMENT) (AMENDMENT) (NO 7) ORDER 2013

1. On the 14th January 2014 The Vale of Glamorgan Council in exercise of its powers under Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, 32, 35, 45, 46, 53 and 124 and Part IV of Schedule 9 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 and Part 6 of the Traffic Management Act 2004 and all other enabling powers made an Order the general effect of which is as described below:

2. The Order will come into operation on 1st February 2014 or on the dates that the signs and road markings are in place and be known as the "Vale of Glamorgan Council (Prohibition and Restriction of Waiting and Loading and Parking Places) (Civil Enforcement) (Amendment) (No 7) Order 2013"

3. A copy of the Order and plans showing the affected areas may be seen at the address shown below during normal office hours.

4. If you wish to question the validity of the Order or any provisions contained therein on the grounds that they are not within the powers conferred by the above Act or on the grounds that any requirement of the same or that any instrument made under it has not been complied with in relation to the Order, you may within six weeks from the 1st February 2014 apply to the High Court for this purpose.

The following Traffic Regulation Order is to be amended as follows:

Vale of Glamorgan Council (Prohibition and Restriction of Waiting and Loading and Parking Places) (Civil Enforcement) Order 2013

Insert Plan of Proposed No Waiting at Anytime Restrictions.

The Square, Dinas Powys – Plan AL58/7-13

On the north-western side of The Square from its junction with Highwalls Road in a north-easterly direction for a distance of 8.9 metres.

Highwalls Road, Dinas Powys – Plan AL58/7-13

On the north-eastern side of Highwalls Road from its junction with The Square in a north-westerly direction for a distance of 10 metres.

Castle Drive, Dinas Powys – Plan AL60/7-13

On the north-western side of Castle Drive 7.4metres from the junction of Murch Road in a north-easterly direction for a distance of 18metres.

On the north-western side of Castle Drive from its junction with St Donats Close in a south-westerly direction for a distance of 10metres.

On the north western-side of Castle Drive from its junction with St Donats Close in a north-easterly direction for a distance of 10metres.

On the south-eastern side of Castle Drive from its junction with Murch Road in a north-easterly direction for a distance of 25 metres.

St Donats Close, Dinas Powys – Plan AL60/7-13

On both sides of its road from its junction with Castle Drive in a north-westerly direction for a distance of 10 metres.

Millbrook Road, Dinas Powys – Plan AK59/7-13

On the south-western side of Millbrook Road from the south-eastern building line of property No. 40 in a north-westerly direction for a distance of 13 metres contiguous with "No Waiting at Anytime" parking restrictions.

Dated this 23rd day of January 2014.

M. E. Punter
Director of Visible Services & Housing
Vale of Glamorgan Council, The Alps,
Wenvoe CF5 6AA

VALE of GLAMORGAN
BRO MORGANNWG

CYNGOR BRO MORGANNWG 2013

GORCHYMYN (GORFODI SIFIL) (DIWYGIO) (RHIF 7) (GWAHARDD AROS, LLWYTHO A PHARCIO A CHYFYNGU AR AROS LLWYTHO A PHARCIO)

1. Ar 14 Ionawr 2014, yr oedd Cyngor Bro Morgannwg, gan arfer ei bwerau o dan Adrannau 1, 2, 3, 4, 32, 35, 45, 46, 53, a 124 a Rhan IV o Atodlen 9 Deddf Rheoli Traffig Ffyrdd 1984, a Rhan 6 Deddf Rheoli Traffig 2004 a phob p_er galluogi arall, wedi gwneud Gorchymyn i'r diben cyffredinol a ddisgrifir isod:

2. Daw'r Gorchymyn i rym ar 1 Chwefror 2014 neu ar y dyddiadau y bydd yr holl arwyddion a marciau ffordd yn eu lle. Fe'i hadwaenir fel 'Gorchymyn (Gorfodi Sifil) (Diwygiedig) (Rhif 7) (Gwahardd Aros, Llwytho a Pharcio a Chyfyngu ar Aros, Llwytho a Pharcio, Cyngor Bro Morgannwg 2013'.

3. Cewch weld copi o'r Gorchymyn a chynlluniau sy'n dangos y mannau dan sylw, yn y cyfeiriad isod yn ystod oriau arferol swyddfa.

4. Os hoffech ddadlau'n erbyn dilysrwydd y Gorchymyn neu'i ddarpariaethau am na chredwch fod gan y ddeddf uchod b_er i'w gweithredu, neu am y tybiwch eu bod yn methu â chydymffurfio â gofynion y ddeddf uchod neu un o'i hofferynnau, bydd gennych chwe wythnos o 1 Chwefror 2014 i wneud cais i'r Uchel Lys i'r diben hwnnw.

Bydd y gorchymyn Rheoli Traffig canlynol yn cael ei ddiwygio fel a ganlyn:

Gorchymyn (Gorfodi Sifil) Gwahardd Aros, Llwyddo a Pharcio a Chyfyngu ar Aros, Llwytho a Pharcio 2013 Cyngor Bro Morgannwg.

Cynhwyser Cynllun o'r mannau lle gwaherddir parcio ar unrhyw adeg.

Y Sgwâr, Dinas Powys – Cynllun AL58/7-13

Ar ochr ogledd-orllewinol y Sgwâr o'r gyffordd â Highwalls Road am 8.9 medr i gyfeiriad y gogledd ddwyrain.

Highwalls Road, Dinas Powys – Cynllun AL58/7-13

Ar ochr ogledd-ddwyreiniol Highwalls Road o'r gyffordd â'r Sgwâr am 10 medr i gyfeiriad y gogledd orllewin.

Castle Drive, Dinas Powys – Cynllun AL60/7-13

Ar ochr ogledd-orllewinol Castle Drive o fan sy'n 7.4metres o'r gyffordd â Murch Road am 18 medr i gyfeiriad y gogledd ddwyrain.

Ar ochr ogledd-orllewinol Castle Drive o'r gyffordd â St Donats Close am 10 medr i gyfeiriad y de orllewin.

Ar ochr ogledd-orllewinol Castle Drive or' gyffordd â St Donats Close am 10 medr i gyfeiriad y gogledd ddwyrain.

Ar ochr dde-ddwyreiniol Castle Drive o'r gyffordd â Murch Road am 25 medr i gyfeiriad y gogledd ddwyrain.

St Donats Close, Dinas Powys – Cynllun AL60/7-13

Ar ddwy ochr yr heol o'r gyffordd â Castle Drive am 10 medr i gyfeiriad y gogledd orllewin.

Heol Millbrook, Dinas Powys – Cynllun AK59/7-13

Ar ochr dde-orllewinol Heol Millbrook o derfyn adeiladu de-ddwyreiniol eiddo Rhif 40 am 13 medr i gyfeiriad y gogledd orllewin ac wrth ymyl y fan lle gwaherddir parcio ar unrhyw adeg.

Dyddiedig 23 Ionawr 2014.

M. E. Punter
Cyfarwyddwr Gwasanaethau Gweladwy a Thai,
Cyngor Bro Morgannwg, Canolfan yr Alpau,
Gwenfô CF5 6AA

VALE of GLAMORGAN
BRO MORGANNWG

'Entertainment' at Nells's Point?

AN ISLAND resident says he was disappointed to receive a council notification that an application has been made to enable live music, dancing, and other entertainment to take place at Nell's Point car park.

Mr Keith Mabbs told The GEM his property was within 100 yards of the site and he felt it would be an unfair imposition on local residents.

He said: "This application is for things such as live music and dancing – activities that have generally taken place on the front.

"We already suffer disturbances due to noise from the Pleasure Park and from traffic.

"I received notification of the licence application through my door on Sunday, January 19 – people only have until the end of the month to object."

Mr Mabbs says the licence would allow music, lighting and staging of activities from 9am to 10pm seven days a week, and he felt this was unfair on local people.

Mr Mabbs plans to object and has already been in touch with local councillor Steffan Wiliam.

Rob Thomas, of the Vale Council, said: "This application has been made to allow use of the Nell's Point site for appropriate events. The consultation will allow the council to consider the feedback received before determining the application."

BRYN HAFREN SCHOOL NEWS

THE geography department at Bryn Hafren recently ran a trip to Cadbury's World, Birmingham – 79 pupils had the chance to discover the history of the chocolate industry.

They also found out how chocolate is made, and of course ate a lot of it too! The trip helped year-7 pupils understand more about their current topic 'The World of Work'.

All the pupils enjoyed the day out and learnt a lot too.

Mr Lewis, head of geography, said: "All the girls thoroughly enjoyed the day, especially the tasting, but what makes it worthwhile is that it is enhancing their learning with their school work as well.

By Emma Robinson and Lucy Harfoot

JAIL SENTENCE HANDED OUT TO SERIAL BURGLAR

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

The following day, he stole a £160 jacket from the House of Fraser store in Cardiff, and afterwards drove while disqualified.

A store detective tried to stop him, and was thrown from the side of the vehicle, but not injured.

Dibble then stole number plates from another Ford Ka and broke into a house in Pencoedtre Road, Barry, when the occupants were asleep.

He tried to break into a house in Churchfields Road, Barry, and was seen putting his arm through an open window.

Later, he burgled a house in the Vale. This was the occasion when he entered the child's bedroom. After stealing a further set of number plates, said Mr Lloyd, he was spotted driving a stolen VW Polo with false number plates and was arrested.

On some occasions, said Mr Lloyd, he left fingerprints and footprints at the scene. At one house, he removed security lights and among the items stolen were irreplaceable engagement and wedding rings.

When arrested in November, he denied the offences, and said: "No comment" to questions.

One victim, said Mr Lloyd, had a terminal illness and could not use his vehicle to go to hospital, which made him anxious and angry.

Another victim said stress had affected her and her husband and the insurance company would not reimburse them because the window had been partially open.

One victim said: "I can't believe someone would do something like this to us."

The 11-year-old, said Mr Lloyd, was badly affected and the family had considered counselling.

One woman said: "Dibble has taken my security away from me."

He was said to have convictions for 53 offences, 12 for burglary and others for robbery, causing grievous bodily harm, and drugs offences.

His counsel Laurence Jones, said: "He feels disgust and shame. He must dramatically turn his life around because of the effect of what he has done on others. At last, he realises the impact of his behaviour.

"None of the premises," he said "were targeted or ransacked, and when his sentence is over, in a scheme being tested in south Wales, he will meet some of his victims, if they wish, when he wants to apologise."

Gang broke into empty local cannabis factory

A GANG of four men had a shock when they broke into a cannabis factory in Barry to discover that all the plants growing the drug had been taken away, Cardiff Crown Court heard, ***writes AJ SICLUNA.***

The police were swiftly on the scene and arrested two men hiding in a nearby garden. Another was caught when spotted by a police helicopter climbing over a fence after losing a shoe, said prosecutor Tracey Lloyd-Nesling.

Daniel Whelan (29) of Bryn Gwili, Pencoed, Geraint Lodwick (22), of Rhymney, Cardiff, Ian Lang (36) of Rogerston, Newport, and Mohammed Hafiz (26) of Barry Road, Barry, each admitted a charge of burglary.

Whelan was jailed for 40 weeks and Lodwick and Lang for 32 weeks. The sentences were suspended for 18 months, and each was also ordered to carry out 180 hours of unpaid work.

Hafiz, who was said to have previous convictions for burglary, was jailed for 18 months.

The first three defendants were ordered to pay a victim surcharge of £100.

Ms Lloyd-Nesling said they broke into what was a disused cannabis factory in Barry Road, Barry, but when they got in, they found there was no cannabis. They fled the scene but the police arrived swiftly and carried out arrests.

Judge Daniel Williams said: "You four formed a team to burgle a house. Your true target was cannabis. You used a Mercedes Sprint van and the police were forced to use a helicopter to arrest Hafiz."

David Pinnell for Whelan, said he had a productive family life and custody would undo his good work in the past.

Adam Sharpe for Lodwick, said that at the time of the offence, he had been taking cannabis and cocaine, but had since addressed his use of drugs.

Lang's counsel, Hash Salman, urged the court to draw back from a custodial sentence and added that reflectively, he was a man of good character.

Kevin Seal for Hafiz said he fell into the category because of past convictions, where he could have received a three-year sentence.

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Students look at career options

RECENTLY, Barry Comprehensive School's main hall was filled with companies, businesses and organisations welcoming students to the annual careers fair.

Hundreds of students visited the stalls to find out about the opportunities in the workplace and in further education.

Business visitors ranged from the global to the local and included BA, Holder Mathias Architects, Dwr Cymru, Willmot Dixon Construction and Cardiff Martial Arts.

Other organisations included Bro Radio, Careers Wales, Financial and Legal Services Partnership, Skills for Logistics, Vale Volunteer Service. The services were well represented by the British Army, the Fire Service and South Wales Police.

Welsh universities were also keen let students know what they had to offer, with stands from Aberystwyth University, Cardiff University, Cardiff Metropolitan University, Swansea Metropolitan University and the University of Wales (Trinity) being very popular.

The school is grateful to all the attendees for their time and commitment to showing students some of the huge range of opportunities available to them. **AC**

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NEW BUS SERVICE WILL CONNECT TO VALE VILLAGES

FOLLOWING negotiations between the Vale Council and New Adventure Travel, it has been agreed that from March 10, Service 303/304 from Bridgend will be extended to Cardiff.

This will provide a through bus service between Bridgend and Cardiff, connecting many villages on the route, including Llantwit Major, St Athan, Rhoose and Barry.

As part of the changes, there will also be an earlier journey to Bridgend to cater for Bridgend College students and an improved service for Llandough Hospital.

The Sunday service 303/304 route will run on a standard timetable and will now run via Port Road West, Colcot Road and Jenner Road. To allow for this change, Sunday Service 303/304 from Pontypridd Road in Barry will no longer run and instead Pontypridd Road and Severn Avenue will continue to be served by service 100.

Service 95 from Llantwit Major to Cardiff will have its route altered to fit alongside Service 303/304. This will result in some changes to service 95, full details of which will be available on the council's website.

Coun Lis Burnett, cabinet member for regeneration, innovation, planning and transportation said: "I am pleased to see that Service 303/304 has been extended to Cardiff, as this will open up even more travel opportunities for passengers.

"It is particularly pleasing that we have been able to work with one of our local operators to secure an extension to a service at a time when money for services is hard to come by."

Service 95 from Llantwit Major to Cardiff will standardise its route to the Service 303/304, resulting in the loss of the current Monday to Saturday evening services in the following areas:

- Pontypridd Road in Barry – Service 95 – will instead run via Port Road West, Colcot Road and Jenner Road between the Cwm Ciddy roundabout and Romilly Schools, where the service can still be accessed.
- Barry Island – Service 95 will not run any operation into Barry Island after the one-way system around the Ship Inn. However, the area will still benefit from a regular rail service provision from Barry Island to Cardiff and Sunday bus Service 96 from Barry to Cardiff.
- Barry between Barry town centre and Palmerston Road via Gibbonsdown and Coldbrook – Service 95 will instead run via Wyndham Street, Court Road, Gladstone Road, Weston Square and Cardiff Road between Barry town centre and Palmerston Road junction with Cardiff Road. The Council's supported evening Service 94 Barry to Cardiff will continue to serve Cadoxton and Coldbrook in this area.
- Llandough, North beyond the hospital main gate and Leckwith Village – Service 95 will instead return to the Merrie Harrier junction from Llandough Hospital and run into Cardiff City Centre via Barry Road, Cogan Spur, Cardiff Bay Retail Park, Grangetown and Cardiff Bay.

PACT *meetings*

GIBBONSDOWN PACT *public meeting will be held at the Gibbonsdown Residents Board Office, Coychurch Rise, on Tuesday, February 4, at 10.30am.*

CASTLELAND PACT *public meeting will be held at The Civic Offices, Holton Road, on Monday, February 17, at 7pm.*

ST AUGUSTINES PACT, *public meeting will be held at The Windsor Arms public house on Wednesday, January 29, at 7pm.*

LLANDOUGH PACT *public meeting will be held at the Royal British Legion, Penlan Road, Llandough, on Monday, February 17, at 7pm.*

COFFEE and chat PACT meeting will be held at the Village Hall, Ystradowen, on Tuesday, February 4 at 11am.

Consultant meets Paddy at Slimming World awards

IT definitely wasn't a case of 'no likey, no lighty' when a Slimming World consultant from Barry met comedian and TV presenter Paddy McGuinness at an awards ceremony.

Annamarie Vincent, who runs a slimming group at Highlight Park Community Centre, Barry, every Thursday, and at St Francis Millennium Centre every Wednesday, was delighted to get a chance to "cuddle up to Paddy" when he co-hosted the Slimming World Awards with the organisation's chair and founder Margaret Miles-Bramwell.

Bolton-born Paddy, who shot to fame in Channel 4 comedy Phoenix Nights alongside school friend Peter Kay before presenting Take Me Out, said: "I have to admit the most I knew about Slimming World before the awards was a gag in Peter's routine that refers to Slimming World as being a £1 cheaper than its competitors!

"Jokes aside, I was genuinely amazed to hear about what a difference consultants like Annamarie make to people's lives."

Annamarie said meeting Paddy at the event, which was held at Birmingham's International Convention Centre, was the cherry on the top of a great year for the Barry Slimming World group.

"Obviously the most important thing of all is that the groups have lost weight and improved their health throughout 2013 and I'm so proud of all of my members – many of them have achieved their target weights and been able do things they never thought possible."

Annamarie can be contacted on 01446 736534.

ABOVE: Slimming World Consultant Annamarie Vincent meets comedian and TV presenter Paddy McGuinness.

Audit Office gives council thumbs up

THE Wales Audit Office has found the Vale Council's finances to be "well managed", and was satisfied that it has appropriate arrangements in place to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness in the latest annual review by the Auditor General.

The audit found no major issues with the council's financial procedures or its accounts. The accounts were audited on September 26 and were found to be a true and fair view of the council's financial position and transactions.

Coun Neil Moore, Leader of the council, was "very satisfied" with the report: "It is good to have an outside body confirm that our financial procedures are working well and, in particular, to find that the Auditor General considers that we have arrangements in place to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness.

"Like all Welsh local authorities, we are facing tough financial times, with more belt-tightening to come, but we will ensure that we will continue to manage our finances competently and prudently, to ensure the best services possible for local people."

The letter from the Audit Office outlining its findings can be found on the council's website, www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk, as part of the minutes for the cabinet meeting of January 13.

VALE MP's VIEWPOINT...

QUESTION IS: WHAT HAPPENED TO THE LOST £17.7 MILLION?

I WAS saddened again last week to read in The GEM reports from Pride In Barry that showed Wales' largest town has been short-changed by £17.7m.

The sale of land on Barry's Waterfront five years ago, raised close to £50M and Barry has seen very little of this.

Pride in Barry, a campaign group aimed at bringing people together to help the town's regeneration, led the charge for Barry to regain some of this money.

Locals felt angry that money had been taken away from Barry and that we had the right to expect a share of the profit. Without gaining an element of the proceeds of the sale of the land, the Welsh Government would have acted in no better way than asset strippers.

As a result of Pride in Barry's campaign some years ago, the town was awarded Regeneration status, with a grant of £9m split over three years.

The Barry Regeneration Board was established to develop and co-ordinate regeneration projects across the town.

Unfortunately, the conditions on the money were considerable and the first year ended up going on local authority pet projects, such as the refurbishment of playgrounds etc.

Vale MP ALUN CAIRNS reports to GEM readers

Although these have a part to play, they are not likely to deliver the economic regeneration we want to see.

The Welsh Government also stated that no money could be carried over between the years. This meant that if there was a major project that needed funding, then it was impossible to deliver. If the money was not spent in one year, then it was lost.

The ultimate question must be whether the majority of people in Barry can state the impact of the funding.

The board gave up their time and achieved a considerable amount in trying circumstances. I can only imagine how much more they could have achieved with a free hand.

I have previously asked for open and honest discussion on regeneration; and I do so again. There should be a non-partisan collaboration on how the Vale councillors and the Welsh Government intend to return investment to Barry.

We need to know what has happened to the £17.7m. I hope that Pride in Barry could play a key part in bringing about such a meeting.

The Collins report that offered sustainable wealth-creating opportunities for Barry has been shelved and the Vale's regeneration bid has been rejected. These come on top of our poor funding settlement, which leaves us as one of Wales' worst-funded communities.

In a nutshell, we have one of the poorest funding settlements from the Welsh Government; they excluded us from its regeneration plans; have left us out of the Assisted Area Map,and taken away £17m of our own money to develop other parts of Wales.

This is a desperate situation for which those in control need to be held to account.

Two Vale women nominated for St David Awards

A SCHOOL crossing patrol lady and a cancer charity fundraiser from the Vale, are amongst the finalists for the first St David Awards.

The finalists were announced by the First Minister, Carwyn Jones at a ceremony sponsored by the communication experts, Golley Slater, at the Wales Millennium Centre.

The St David Awards scheme is unique to Wales. It recognises the achievements of people from all walks of life, regardless of their origin or background, each nominated by members of the public.

Karin Williams, a school crossing patrol lady from Rhoose, is a finalist in the bravery category after she instinctively went to protect youngsters, by putting herself between them and a car that had lost control in front of Rhws Primary School in June 2013.

She suffered serious injuries in the accident, including breaking a shoulder and both legs, and spent the following nine weeks in hospital.

Lara Cowp, from Dinas Powys, has been chosen as a finalist in the citizenship category, for her work in raising funds for the Teenage Cancer Trust Unit at the University Hospital of Wales, Cardiff – the only one of its kind in Wales.

To date, Lara has raised more than £50,000 for the Teenage Cancer Trust, with more than £11,000 raised in 2013.

The First Minister said: "I am told that picking finalists from the many worthy entrants received was no easy task, but the people who have been chosen exemplify the reason I established the awards.

"I wanted to be able to recognise the extraordinary achievements made by the people of Wales, people who I meet regularly during my visits across the country, people who go above and beyond to make a difference to life in Wales.

"I do not envy the task of picking the winner of each category, although all are deserving and should feel very proud of their achievements.

"I now look forward to the actual awards ceremony in March."

The finalists were decided by an independent panel of judges, chaired by Lord David Rowe Beddoe.

The winner for each category will be announced in an award ceremony at the Royal Welsh College for Music and Drama in Cardiff on Thursday, March 13.

It will be televised by S4C, with English commentary available.

Call centre tour

VALE Council-led Barry Communities First have organised a site visit for job seekers to Admiral Insurance in Cardiff on Thursday, January 23 – to learn about work in a call centre

Barry Communities First are providing a free bus ride from Holm View Leisure Centre at 8.30am (departing from Admiral at 12pm).

*Promotion runs from 21st – 27th January 2014. Conditions and exclusions apply – ask staff for details.

College course 'makes a difference' to Mind in the Vale volunteers

CARDIFF and Vale College and Mind in the Vale recently held a ceremony to congratulate students who qualified on courses arranged between the college and the charity.

Held at Barry Library and hosted by Vale AM Jane Hutt, the ceremony saw the presentation of certificates to Mind volunteers from across the Vale. Several could not attend the event, as they have found employment since completing their courses.

Barney Sanders, Mind in the Vale project worker, said: "This is a celebration of our volunteers and a celebration of partnership working. I don't think any of this could have happened without the hard work and commitment of Cardiff and Vale College.

"People have gone into full time employment and one is studying to be a nurse. This has been an integral part of these people's recovery."

Those who have found jobs since taking the course include Jodie Seamer, who volunteered for Western Vale Mind and is now working in Waitrose since taking an NVQ.

CAVC Mind candidates with Jane Hutt and Kay Martin on the steps of Barry Library.

Another success story is Royston Scott, who has progressed from a QCF course and is now at Swansea University studying to be a community psychiatric nurse. Their achievements were said to be the result of just one part of the college's community work, where expert CAVC staff travel across the region, taking support and training out to people who might not be able to go to a college site.

The AM offered her congratulations to all of the graduates: "It's a huge achievement, which could not be delivered without this partnership.

"We are so fortunate to have a college here in Barry like Cardiff and Vale College, and such dedicated staff."

CAVC vice-principal for curriculum, Kay Martin, said: "I always feel privileged to be here with Jane to present these certificates. This is why I come in to work in the mornings. Events like these are very important to us.

"I would also like to thank the CAVC staff for their work.

"They go to where they are needed and that is something that I think the college does very well," she added.

Usage of new rural bus service to be monitored

A NEW trial bus service is now operating Monday to Friday between 8:15am and 6:15pm, offering transport from Llantwit Major to Cowbridge and Cowbridge to Bridgend town centre, linking 17 Vale villages and hamlets.

Coun Neil Moore, Coun Lis Burnett and Edwina Hart AM with the Greenlinks bus.

The Vale Leader, Coun Neil Moore and Coun Lis Burnett welcomed the Minister for Economy, Science and Transport, Edwina Hart to the council's offices in Barry.

The Minister said: "I am pleased to see the Vale is trialling this service to meet the public transport needs of rural areas.

"I want to see new solutions for delivering an efficient, sustainable bus service across Wales and look forward to seeing how the new Greenlinks service performs."

Coun Lis Burnett, cabinet member for regeneration, innovation, planning and transportation said:

"The Leader and I welcomed the opportunity to brief the Minister on our Greenlinks bus service and we also explained how the new bus service will provide an essential currently missing link between Llantwit Major, Cowbridge and Bridgend.

"As the service is being introduced on a trial basis, the council will be monitoring usage, so I urge people to pick up the phone or visit our website and reserve their seats."

Fares on this new service will range between £3 and £4 return for adults and £1-50 to £2-00 return for children. Passengers will be able to use their Welsh concessionary travel passes on the service.

The bus service will also serve the villages of Llanmaes, Sigingstone, Llandow, Llysworney, Llanblethian , Pentre Meyrick, Penllyn, Craig Penllyn, City, Ruthin, St Mary Hill, Fferm Goch, Llangan, Treoes, Colwinston, Corntown and Ewenny. Pick-up and drop off points will be from bus stops or agreed locations. Pick up times will be agreed the day before travel.

To request a seat on the service, call 0800 294 1113 by 12 noon, one working day before travel. Regular weekly bookings will also be accepted and regular users will be able to book multiple trips by one phone call.

For more information, visit www.valeoflamorgan.gov.uk/Greenlinks or telephone 0800 294 1113.

TENOVUS SAYS 'THANK YOU"

LETTER TO EDITOR

AS ***we start the New Year, I felt it was the perfect opportunity for me to give my thanks to our brilliant local community for the support they continue to give us, especially throughout our 70th birthday celebrations last year.***

Since we began in 1943, we have achieved a lot that we are proud of.

Our innovative approach has led to research discoveries like Tamoxifen, a drug now used to treat millions of cancer patients worldwide.

We have launched two mobile cancer support units that take treatment and support to the heart of communities across Wales.

Our Sing with Us choirs now support over 600 people affected by cancer every single week through song.

A lot has changed in the last 70 years, but one thing that's remained constant is the support for our charity shops in the local community, something we're very grateful for.

The services we provide to cancer patients and their families in communities across Wales would simply not be possible without it.

We all sometimes get that one present that wasn't quite right or that we already have, so why not pop in and see us in one of our shops, donate your unwanted Christmas gifts and give them a new home?

We'd love to see you and say thank you for your continued support.

On behalf of everyone at Tenovus, a big thank you and a very happy 2014.

Natalie Kell, (Retail Area Manager, Tenovus).

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TAX HELP ACROSS THE VALE

TOP advice

TAXHELP for Older People (TOP) will offer free professional advice to older people on a restricted income, with income tax queries and/or problems at Roz Couzens' Chiropody Surgery, Unit 4, Commercial House, Commercial Street, Llantwit Major CF61 1RB on February 3 from 10am until midday.

No appointment is necessary. To access the TOP's helpline telephone 0845 601 3321, or 01308 488066. Home visits can also be arranged via this helpline for people unable to attend the surgery.

- *Free tax advice for older people is also available at Age Connect Cardiff and Vale Senior Health Shop, Holton Road, Barry from a qualified tax professional on Monday, January 27 (9.30am to 11.30am). No appointment is needed. Telephone 01446 732385 for further information.*

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The Housing Act 2004 places a strict duty on all landlords to register a deposit in an approved scheme, and there is a timescale for doing this; along with registering the deposit, the landlord must serve prescribed information on the tenant.

Some landlords have not registered the deposits within the timescale and they have now been advised that they cannot obtain possession of their properties and they have to pay their tenant the equivalent of up to three weeks' rent as compensation.

When fixed-term tenancy agreements expire, the landlord has to serve further prescribed information on their tenants. If this is not served, the tenants do not have to vacate.

If you are a tenant who has paid a deposit you should ask your landlord for a copy of the bond registration certificate. If you are a landlord who has not registered a bond, then you need assistance as soon as possible.

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It's *'up up and away'* as Cadets take glider course

RECENTLY, four Air Cadets from 372 (Barry) Squadron flew in a modern Vigilant at MoD St Athan; to experience at first hand the sensation of glider flying.

Arriving early in the morning at 634 Volunteer Gliding Squadron, the Cadets were given detailed safety, weather, flying and operational briefs relating to the day's activities. The Cadets were introduced to their pilots and ground staff who would be looking after them.

The aim of the day was to gain experience of flying the glider under the guidance of the pilot, using the control column and rudder pedals. Each flight typically lasting 20 – 30 minutes, flying at about 1,500 feet, is sufficient to carry out all the training on each particular sortie, as well as providing excellent aerial views of the Vale.

The Cadets were actually surprised at just how easy it felt to fly the glider. Jake Paterson, Jordan Saunders, Joe Bailey and Rhys Horton passed their gliding induction course, with 'flying colours'.

Jake said the flight was "really exciting and I can't wait to fly in the Vigilant again; it was an amazing flight."

The Air Cadets also undertake adventure training, shooting, sport, field craft, project work and the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme, expeditions and camps to RAF stations.

If you have a spirit for adventure, 372 (Barry) Squadron have vacancies for boys and girls between 13 – 18 years old. The Squadron parade on Mondays and Wednesdays (7pm – 9.30pm) behind Adams Funeral Parlour (by the Memorial Hall) or you can phone the Squadron on 01446 747734; email oc.372@aircadets.org or visit wwwæ.372squadron.org for more information.

JASON HORTON

ABOVE: RHYS HORTON.

Did you know you can now find The Glamorgan GEM on Twitter? Follow us: @gem_news

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It's been a crazy few months for Cloudy2Clear Windows. The company which specialises in repairing windows which are steamed up, broken or damaged by replacing the panes – not the frames has grown rapidly as homeowners take advantage of their services.

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Cloudy2Clear service the Vale, Bridgend, RCT and Porthcawl areas and Phil is finding that his approach is a major factor in his success. *'The truth is that it's not just the personal satisfaction that I get from doing a good job but also it makes good business sense. I get a huge amount of business from friends and family of people I've done work for, which just goes to show how much a little bit of effort is appreciated.'*

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Out and About with The GEM

The Wolf of Wall Street makes essential viewing

by GARETH JAMIESON
Follow Screen Talk on Twitter – @GEMScreenTalk

IN terms of great actor/director partnerships, that of Martin Scorsese and Leonardo DiCaprio has yielded some incredible results, with their latest, *The Wolf of Wall Street,* being spoken of as their best yet.

Based on a true story, DiCaprio plays Jordan Belfort, a stockbroker whose *laissez faire* attitude to financial management makes him a wealthy man; but when Belfort's actions are closely monitored, before he knows it, the world he has built for himself is in danger of crumbling around him...

With Leonardo DiCaprio, Martin Scorsese appears to have developed the same understanding that the director shared with Robert De Niro, the pair having made some exceptional films together.

The Wolf of Wall Street lives up to the pre-release hype entirely, the film the best offering star and director have delivered together yet, and in Leonardo DiCaprio's case, the actor offers what may just be the best performance of a career not short of highlights.

The three-hour epic is a pacy piece of work, the running time passing by incredibly quickly, which is a testament to both the direction of Martin Scorsese and creator of TV's *Boardwalk Empire,* Terence Winter's vibrant script.

The notion of the pursuit of the American dream has been something filmmakers have been exploring keenly in recent months (both *Pain & Gain* and *Nebraska* have tackled the notions of money being the answer to life's problems), but *The Wolf of Wall Street* cloaks its cautionary tale with humour and no little scandal, the rise and fall of Jordan Belfort delivered with panache and a pleasing lack of moralising.

While Winter's script, and Scorsese's direction, celebrate the excesses on show, arguments that they are glamourising such illegal dealings are wide of the mark.

These are characters living life to the fullest, but beneath the yachts, fast cars and drugs there is nothing to show for it, Belfort and his co-workers slowly losing track of reality as their circumstances change.

The characters are written with pin-sharp precision by Winter, fully fleshed and achingly real. While the film starts out as comedy, albeit on the dark side, as Belfort's world starts falling around him and drama replaces the humour, the film shifts gears effortlessly.

With such meaty material, Martin Scorsese's direction is livelier and edgier than it has been in many years. While he can hardly be accused of dipping in form, his recent work has felt more staid. Here, it feels as though he has been given material that allows him to cut loose.

The 'rise and fall' aspect of the story brings to mind *Goodfellas* as a point of reference, but Scorsese's direction isn't a case of reliving past glories, more showing how much hunger and desire he still has.

He brings out what may just be a career-best performance from his muse, Leonardo DiCaprio, who similarly delivers a 'gloves-off' performance that slides between gears with precision and seemingly no little effort.

Belfort isn't a particularly endearing character on paper, but DiCaprio never really hangs on the character's shortfalls; instead, with a beaming grin and a casual attitude towards substance abuse, he lunges headlong into Belfort and comes out with a truly incredible turn.

The cast is of such quality you can take to the bank how strong the performances will be.

Of particular note are Jonah Hill, who is really blooming as a dramatic performer, his bufoonish Donnie starting off as a figure of fun but slowly turning into a figure of tragedy.

Newcomer Margot Robbie is noteworthy as Belfort's second wife, Rob Reiner is good value as his father, and its always a pleasure seeing Kyle Chandler, as the FBI agent on Belfort's tail, on the big screen, among others.

A richly compelling story, *The Wolf of Wall Street* is an exceptional film – a reminder of the skill of Scorsese's direction and an electric lead turn from Leonardo DiCaprio making for an incredible thrill ride.

VERDICT: A mesmerising look at greed and the American dream gone awry, *The Wolf of Wall Street* is an epic film full of punch and verve.

Martin Scorsese's direction hasn't seemed so urgent in years, Leonardo DiCaprio's performance is perhaps the finest of his career yet, and it all comes wrapped in a fine screenplay from Terence Winter.

The result is an absolute delight of a film. *Essential viewing.*

SEE THIS IF YOU LIKED: *Goodfellas* (1990), *American Psycho* (2000).

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LOCAL author Phil Carradice has had more than 40 books published and his latest is *The Ships Of Pembroke Dockyard* (Amberley Publishing, £15.99).

This book looks at the ships created during the 112-year history of the dockyard, covering their construction, careers and, in many cases, their demise as well.

Almost 300 ships were built at Pembroke Dock, the only Royal Naval dockyard ever to exist in Wales, but only two major conflicts took place, so most Pembroke ships served in the constant series of skirmishes that marked the growth of the British Empire.

Those small colonial engagements helped give the Royal Navy a standing that has hardly ever been equalled before or since, and provide fascinating stories for the reader. **BRIAN LEE**

WHAT'S ON... IN BRIEF

Vale AM's surgery

THE Vale of Glamorgan AM, Jane Hutt, will be holding a surgery on January 24 from 4pm – 5pm at Dinas Powys Parish Hall.

Railway society

THE Barry Railway Society's next meeting is in Penarth Conservative Club, 15 Stanwell Road, Penarth, CF5 2EZ (opposite the railway station) on January 30 at 7.30pm.

Entitled *'Railways in Wales on digital video',* it is a two-hour big screen presentation of both steam and modern traction, by local video photographer and railway enthusiast, Mike Wilcock.

All are welcome. Entrance fee is £1.

Spring walk

ART4U is holding a walk in Barry on Saturday, February 1 to welcome spring.

Meet under the shelters on the lake in the Knap Gardens at 3.30pm.

Floral society

MEMBERS of the Barry Floral Society are looking forward to a very enjoyable 2014, commencing on January 28 with the annual general meeting.

Tuesday, February 11 will see a meeting with members producing a design of their choice.

The first demonstration meeting is on February 25, when a good friend of the club, Mrs Gloria Davies of Ammanford, will present 'It's a passion'.

Meetings are held at the St Nicholas Hall, St Nicholas Road, Barry, commencing at 2.15pm. New members are always welcome.

Vale Mayor's charity coffee

THE Vale of Glamorgan Mayor is hosting a charity coffee morning in aid of Amelia Trust Farm on Tuesday, January 28 from 10.30am-12 noon in the Civic Office.

All are welcome.

Cowbridge Art Society

ON Thursday, January 30, retired architect and CAS honorary member John Phillips, will give a talk on the subject of the society's Keith James Trophy, entitled *'The city is a beehive'.*

Bring any medium of choice to help develop ideas. The society meets on Thursday evenings at the Old Hall, Cowbridge, 7pm-9pm, and visitors and new members are welcome.

For details of the society's activities, see www.cowbridgeartsociety.com.

Bird watch

THERE will be a Big Farmland Bird Count 2014 at Amelia Trust Farm, Five Mile Lane, Barry CF62 3AS on Sunday, February 2 at 10am, to identify birds as part of the Game and Wildlife Conservation Trust's campaign.

Bring your own binoculars/scope and strong boots or wellington boots. This is a free event.

For further information, contact Rose at roseanneh@ameliatrust.org.uk or call 01446 782030.

Charity's special Welsh month

A Welsh charity is holding events to raise funds between Santes Dwynwen (Welsh patron saint of lovers') day on January 25 and Valentine's Day, on February 14.

Welsh Hearts are aiming to raise much-needed cash to buy defibrillators and emergency life saving equipment throughout Wales.

For opera lovers, there are two Santes Dwynwen opera nights – one at Stefano's Restaurant in Pontcanna on Thursday, January 23, and another in Bellini's Restaurant, Park Place, on Saturday, January 25.

There is also the Ten Tenors Concert on Sunday, February 16 at St David's Hall with tenors including Rhys Meirion and Wynne Evans and Aled Hall.

For romantics, the charity is holding its 'Heart to Heart Ball' at The Park Plaza Hotel in Cardiff (tickets £39.50).

For fashionistas, there is a fashion show at The VIP Lounge, Mermaid Quay with spring clothes from Poppers, @Fab, Robyn Coles Milliner (tickets £10).

For further information, go to: Welshhearts.org/heartto-heart.

To support Welsh Hearts in Heart to Heart Month, contact the fundraising office on 02920 786521.

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'CUT NUMBER OF COUNCILS' PLAN SPARKS LIVELY DEBATE

by PHILIP IRWIN

POLITICIANS in the Vale have been keen to comment on the Williams Commission's review into public services – where the headline proposal has been that the number of local authorities in Wales should be cut from 22 to either10, 11 or 12.

The review prompted a regional AM to say it was "almost inevitable" that the Vale would be merged with Cardiff.

Coun Neil Moore, the Leader of the Vale Council, said: "It is a significant report and as a result it will take some time to go through the contents and absorb its findings.

"Many individuals and organisations have submitted evidence, but I am keen to stress the impact any potential reorganisation could have on the community, not least in terms of jobs, the cost of reorganisation and service disruption caused as a result.

"I have taken a keen interest in the review, but I have not argued for a full scale structural reorganisation and believe that is not necessary, affordable or required at this time.

"Now the report has been published it will require considerable time and analysis to do justice to its contents. That being the case, it would be inappropriate to respond prematurely.

"However, I recognise that opinions within local government across Wales will vary and there may be pressure for change, particularly where the austerity measures may challenge the sustainability of certain councils. This is certainly not the case in the Vale.

"I also recognise that the debate will continue for the moment, but I await a formal response from Welsh Government, which I hope will be soon and allow us to debate the merits of the Commission's report fully.

"The Review has clearly identified options for 10, 11 and 12 local authorities rather than the current 22.

"It is also clear that the report has profound implications for service delivery and for the Local Government workforce. It is therefore imperative that all stakeholders have as full a debate as possible before coming to any conclusions, and decisions on the future of our services, which cannot be taken lightly.

"We already live in a time of unprecedented cuts in public spending but we also know that demands on public services have never been greater.

"The economy is very fragile and we in Wales can ill afford the loss of a large number of good quality jobs, which are distributed around all parts of Wales, including some of our most deprived communities at this time.

"It should be remembered that the Williams Commission was an independent review and although the Welsh Government is not bound by its findings, we must know where the Government stands on these recommendations.

"If there is to be change, then we will need clarity on timescales, transitional arrangements, service and workforce implications and above all how the massive and substantial costs of any changes are to be met.

"Whatever happens, I and my colleagues in the Vale of Glamorgan will work constructively with the Welsh Government in shaping the future of Wales' public services.

"However, it is important to remember that the public services are major local employers and deliver services that enable individuals to lead healthy and fulfilled lives within sustainable communities. I look forward to a full debate on these issues in the coming months."

Commenting on the recommendations, regional AM, Andrew RT Davies, said:

"It is important to remember that at this stage, these remain proposals and it is now up to the Welsh Government to come forward with a response.

"Ultimately, given the public speculation and the on-going uncertainty, I am hopeful that the Welsh Government will make their position clear sooner rather than later.

"From a local perspective, it is almost inevitable now that the Vale will be amalgamated with Cardiff, as is the case with health in the area.

"However, it should be remembered that big is not always beautiful. Since its formation in 2009, Cardiff & Vale UHB has been through a number of chairs and chief executives and has a far from impressive record of service delivery.

"This should not be solely a question of financing local government. The whole process should be underpinned by a debate about what services we as residents expect local authorities to deliver. Ultimately it would be a sad day for democracy in Wales if any systemic reform leads communities to feel greater disconnect with local authorities."

Vale AM Jane Hutt said: "The Williams Commission has produced an extensive report which will now be considered by all those in Welsh public services.

"As the Assembly Member for the Vale, I will be listening to all those who engage in the debate and discussions, feeding back views as we consider the way forward. At a time of continuing austerity and public service cuts, it is vital that we look at all options to safeguard and improve our public services."

Launching its own report Catch 22 (3), Electoral Reform Society Cymru (ERSC) has raised concerns that larger councils may weaken local democracy, and has warned the Welsh Government not to rush into it..

Steve Brooks, the director of the ERSC, said: "There's a real danger that in moving towards mergers, local democracy could suffer. Larger councils could make voters feel more disconnected and less able to influence decisions which affect their everyday lives.

"Evidence from Europe suggests that this can undermine the public's confidence in local government and its ability to respond to local needs.

"The Williams Commission rightly addresses these concerns, but in the push to re-organise, it's important that the Welsh Government takes time to protect local, democratic engagement.

"Plans should be brought forward to give neighbourhoods real power to make local decisions. Welsh Ministers should also revisit the 2002 Sunderland Commission report which recommended a fair voting system for local government."

"Without voting reform, there's an added danger that these larger councils will become one-party states, which will only further compound councils' governance problems"

Paul Haley, the chairman of the 'Pride in Barry' group, felt that Barry would benefit from a merger with Cardiff.

He said: "It will be a chance to explore potential new opportunities for the town, for example, a greater link for the Barry beaches with Cardiff and additional image building and promotional events.

" Pride In Barry would welcome positive engagement in the next steps consultation to ensure that the views of the Barry community are represented and the best outcome for Barry is achieved."

The Leader of Plaid Cymru in the Vale, Coun Chris Franks, has urged caution. He said, "The current system is considered outdated by the Welsh Government, but we have to make sure that any change is an improvement.

"Any change needs to be financially sound, with clear information regarding the initial funding required."

He continued, "There's a great deal more to this report than simply cutting the number of councils. For instance there's the future of some aspects of the Health Service, the Fire Service, National Parks and Community Health Councils."

He said that the report also appears to propose some sort of semi-merger between the Fire Service and the Ambulance Service, and that town and community councils are marked for mergier as well.

Surprisingly, he said, the report does not make any recommendation concerning the number of councillors that should be in each ward.

Commenting on this, Coun Franks concluded: "This report has much breadth but little depth. Despite many far-reaching recommendations over a wide range of issues, this report contains no reference to the number of councillors or their method of election."

Independent Barry councillor Richard Bertin said: "Although I agree we need to reconfigure councils, I am concerned that we in the Vale will come out the loser. I sincerely hope that everything will not be centred around Cardiff at the expense of us here in the Vale."

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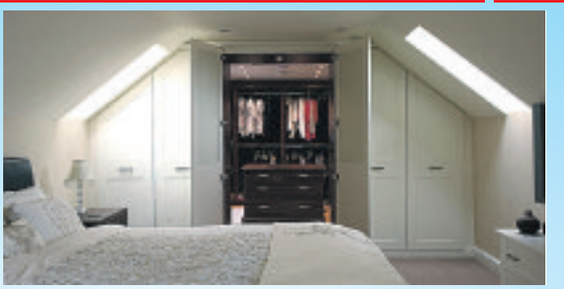

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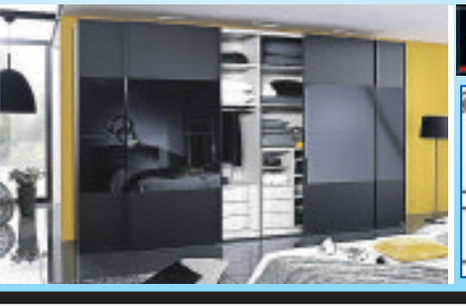

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SIX NATIONS RUGBY

2014 FIXTURES

SIX NATIONS SCHEDULE

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 1
WALES v Italy 2.30pm
France v England 5pm

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 2
Ireland v Scotland 3pm

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 8
Ireland v WALES 2.30pm
Scotland v England 5pm

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 9
France v Italy 3pm

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 21
WALES v France 8pm

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 22
Italy v Scotland 1.30pm
England v Ireland 4pm

SATURDAY, MARCH 8
Ireland v Italy 2.30pm
Scotland v France 5pm

SUNDAY, MARCH 9
England v WALES 3pm

SATURDAY, MARCH 15
Italy v England 12.30pm
WALES v Scotland 2.45pm
France v Ireland 5pm

WELSH CAMP AIMS TO BLOT OUT CIVIL WAR AS FANS GEAR UP FOR HISTORIC CAMPAIGN

OUTLANDISH though it may seem, the final outcome of the 2014 Six Nations rugby championship which kicks off on Saturday, February 1, may well prove to be determined on the opening weekend – with the main contenders for the title all having a special point to prove, *writes DON JOHN*.

Notorious slow starters Wales, who face last year's surprise package, Italy, at the Millennium Stadium, will be hoping that this time there will be no repeat of their dire first 40 minutes in last year's opening game against Ireland in Cardiff, which, as it turned out, cost them a back-to-back and fourth Grand Slam in nine years.

That 22-30 reverse was put into sharp relief by successive Welsh victories over France, Italy and Scotland, culminating in the shock 30-3 crushing of England's Grand Slam hopes, which clinched the 2013 championship title on a heady night for Welsh rugby at the Millennium Stadium.

Despite a seemingly never-ending injury list, and against a background of bitter off-field conflict between the WRU and the four professional regions, the Welsh camp's hopes are high of maintaining their impressive progress under head coach Warren Gatland and achieving a third successive championship title.

However, badly wounded England, who had come to the Millennium Stadium confident of victory in 2013, will be desperate to avenge their worst defeat to Wales when they meet again, this time at fortress Twickenham on March 9.

Before then, though, the men in white from 'HQ' will face another side whose pride has been hurt, last year's humbled 'wooden spoonists' France, in Paris – also on the opening day of the campaign – in a crunch clash that will immediately remove one of Wales' main Grand Slam rivals from the equation.

The following day, it will be the turn of Ireland – who gave the All Blacks such a tough test in the autumn – to overcome the first challenge to *their* Six Nations title hopes from the slowly re-building Scots, who like Italy, ended above them in the 2013 results table.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 17)

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SIX NATIONS RUGBY 2014 FIXTURES

Forget off-field discord, stand by for yet another thriller!

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 16)

Both the Irish and the French will want to prove a point against the upstart Azzurri, who can no longer be dismissed as international lightweights.

After all, they confounded the form book by defeating Ireland 22-15 and France 23-18 when they met in Rome last year.

All in all, despite the huge uncertainty caused by the off-field distractions that have engulfed the Welsh and European game in recent months, it promises to be another enthralling tournament – with all six nations especially keen to lay down early markers for next year's Rugby World Cup.

Already, the excitement among Welsh supporters is evident, with a 'sold out' sign at the Millennium Stadium for the final match against Scotland on March 15, as they scent a record fourth Grand Slam is in the air.

Time will tell if that inimitable optimism is justified.

WALES V ITALY

Travel information

Arriva Trains Wales say they will be providing extra train services and additional seating capacity "where possible" – to cater for fans travelling to the Wales v Italy Six Nations game at the Millennium Stadium in Cardiff on Saturday, February 1.

A spokesperson said: "For the return trip, customers are advised to ensure they make their way to Cardiff Central Station with plenty of time to catch services advertised in the normal timetable, as only a limited number of additional services will be provided beyond 7pm.

"Seats will be allocated on a first come, first served basis. Customers are also advised to buy a return ticket, as they offer better value than two singles, and also to avoid queuing at the ticket machines.

"As usual, the British Transport Police will be on duty, and passengers who are deemed not fit to travel due to excess alcohol consumption, will not be allowed on the trains. "

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On your marks for Barnardo's!

THE countdown has already begun for this year's Cardiff Half Marathon on Sunday, October 5, and Barnardo's Cymru is urging its supporters to register and "get training" for the flagship running event.

Runners will be setting off from Cardiff Castle on the 13.1 mile course, taking in the capital city's most iconic landmarks.

Yvonne Rodgers, director Barnardo's Cymru, said: "2014 will be the 12th year of the half marathon in the Welsh capital and Barnardo's are proud to be the official race charity partner.

"The Cardiff Half Marathon is the biggest road race in Wales and the second biggest half marathon in the UK. Barnardo's needs your support now more than ever to deliver our services to help children and young people who are abused, vulnerable, neglected or living in poverty.

"Money raised will help us run one of our 88 services across Wales, including Seraf, an all-Wales service which helps children and young people who are currently being sexually exploited or are in danger of such exploitation."

The 2013 Lloyds Bank Cardiff Half Marathon was a record-breaker, with over 19,000 registered runners, cheered on by over 40,000 spectators. This year's event will be bigger and better than ever before.

Contact: *facebook.com/BarnardosEvents, or twitter.com/BarnardosEvents.*

Travellers' treat at cafe

LOCAL artist and felt-maker, Pat Johnson, is exhibiting her work in the Travellers Café/Gallery on Platform 1 at Barry Railway Station, Barry.

Vale of Glamorgan Artists help to run the gallery with the Mind in the Vale charity; open weekday mornings 7am until noon.

The exhibition runs until March 14.

Winter Trees by Pat Johnson.

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Dark mysteries and ghostly spectres from Llanmaes' past

SPOOKY TALES
by
Hayley Williams

THE village of Llanmaes lies north of Llantwit Major in the Vale, around two miles from the Glamorgan Heritage Coast at Stout Bay.

The Church of St Cadoc (St Cattwg's) was first mentioned in documents from 1254, and is believed to have been built upon an earlier Celtic groundwork.

It was awarded a Grade II listing in 1963, as it has impressive features such as the chancel, the nave, and western tower.

Although most of the church was built earlier, the three bells, the tower and chancel were added in 1632. Other entries referring to the church date to July 17, 1621, with another quotation stating that the chalice is from 1549.

A wooden rood (screen) divides the chancel and nave, and the large font with spectacular rolled mountings on its rim date back to Norman times. A railed tomb devoted to the Nicholl family to the east of the chancel was given Grade II status in 2003.

In the church, dedicated writings are visible, worded in Latin which translates to 'This Belfry was erected at the cost of the parish and friends (well-wishers) to Edward Llewelyn and Iltyd Nicholl, wardens of the Church 1632'. Sir John Nicholl, a relation to Iltyd, was born at the Great House, north of the church.

In the churchyard, a 15th Century Grade II listed Calvary stone cross with four stone steps is a prominent feature.

Burial records refer to the long life of many residents, referring to as far back as 1495. An unusual allusion suggests that a Battle of Bosworth field veteran Ivan Yorath, in 1485 was 108 years old, something which is highly unlikely. In fact, at the age of 44, he is documented to have lived out the remainder of his life as a fisherman in Llantwit Major.

There is evidence of the remains of a 14th Century Norman Hall or tower called Malifant/Malefant Castle, although no documentation about these erections have ever been unearthed. These sit behind a modern house in fields along the coastal road, where the ruins of a Roman fort are apparent.

Llanmaes House was built around 1540 by James Turbevill. It was Grade II listed in 1962 and is adjacent to the church situated in the ancient part of the village.

Little is known about its inhabitants as documentation does not seem to exist, except that it was enlarged during the 19th Century with a central stairwell and panelled rooms. A drawing room and reception hall were added during the 18th Century.

The Great House itself is lime washed with a dovecot (Grade II listed 2003) surrounded by beautiful gardens. The three storey building was constructed in renaissance style. The walls, gate piers and gates were awarded Grade II status in 2003.

The focal point of this idyllic village is the village green with its vibrantly painted pump and a wooden bridge stretching across the stream which flows through the heart of the village.

The Blacksmiths Arms is the only surviving public house in the village, and it gets its name from the old forge which lies opposite.

With such a varied history throughout the years, the tranquil village of Llanmaes may not be as peaceful as it may seem because it attracts visitors of the supernatural kind.

The eerie image of a tall man has been seen on numerous occasions. He has been labelled as the 'Peddler's Ghost' as it is thought that he was a door-to-door salesman of Scottish descent, murdered in a lane near Picketston.

His large skeleton was found buried beside the roadside, a macabre find. Could this ghostly spectre be in search of a respectful burial, unable to rest until this endeavour is complete?

Another lane/track road at Llanmaes is eerily called Gallows Way, aptly named after the Gallows Tree where many citizens met their end. The startling spectacle of phantom black dogs have been seen, prowling the lane as if in search of someone, or even something.

Could these frightful hounds be the faithful companions of the condemned, guarding the site of their former masters?

At the dead of night, peculiar noises have been heard, together with the sound of a mass crowd invisibly running along the track road, followed by something heavy falling to the ground.

Could these mysterious occurrences be linked to a treacherous world beyond our grasp?

hayley.williams550@yahoo.com

Young carers' award

YOUNG people who care for family members have been awarded £800 from Capital FM's Big Christmas Give.

The money will be used by Action for Children-Gweithredu dros Blant's Vale of Glamorgan Young Carers service to provide fun events, such as bowling, cinema trips and play centre visits.

It was awarded to the service by Capital FM from a grant of £15,000, which was raised by Cardiff Round Table, supported by Legal and General.

Debra Ennis, children's services manager at Action for Children-Gweithredu dros Blant, said: "These young people don't often have time to enjoy themselves or see friends and even their school work can suffer."

The service provides regular events for more than 70 young people who spend time for others. If you know a young person between the ages of eight to 18 who regularly cares for a relative and would benefit from support, contact Vale of Glamorgan Young Carers on 01446 724080.

Penarth Computer Club members make plans for busy year

CHAIRMAN Mike J greeted members at our first meeting of 2014 (our AGM) by wishing them a happy and prosperous New Year. He noted the passing of two of our long-standing members recently; Wally and Ron. He said that he had enjoyed his first year as chairman and looked forward to the coming programme, to be decided by the membership after the tea break.

Secretary Mike F briefly reviewed the past year (at our age some of us forget what we were doing last week).

Treasurer Howard presented the financial report which showed a small deficit over the last year. Although we have space for a few more members, the overall financial position was still healthy and no increase was proposed for the annual subscription (£5 since 1992) or for the meeting fees (Members £2, Visitors £3).

All reports were accepted and approved, (the financial report being approved subject to audit).

The existing committee was re-elected without change. Officers are as above and Nic, Rhona, and Kevin S are committee members.

The short formal business meeting was then closed and refreshments enjoyed before re-assembling to discuss the programme content for meetings up to the summer break.

This involved some lively debate that included a degree of friendly banter.

Some of the specifics might be adjusted slightly, but the programme that emerged will be a welcome mixture of new and old style – with the old style containing new material starting with some new general hints and tips.

A forum evening will give members a chance to raise a variety of questions on any computer topic that we can handle.

A new feature will be an evening emphasising the FUN you can have with your computer. We don't do shoot – 'em – up games, but the chairman has some other ideas that we can explore.

More hints and tips will concentrate on specific applications such as Word. That can be quite interactive as various ways of doing something are revealed.

Another visit from a guest speaker will further explore photo-editing.

Looking at how to deal with the proliferation of different plugs and sockets and cables will be useful. So will an evening looking at getting the best out of your smart-phone.

Skype for free telephone calls and video links over the internet will be revisited.

We will be looking at the 'Cloud' to see just how useful it can be and learning all about websites, and how to make or use them to best effect.

The programme will be rounded off with a Chips and Chat evening and finally an open evening as part of the Penarth Festival.

We do have little informal chats at all our meetings where we help to resolve or suggest solutions to problems encountered by members as they just get along with using their computer. That's the reason 'The Friendly Club' exists, after all!

Our next meeting is on Tuesday, January 28, at All Saints Lesser Hall, Victoria Square, Penarth, at 7.30pm. Old and new hints and tips. Visitors always welcome. See penarthcomputerclub.co.uk.

HOWARD DESMOND

'A caring man, and passionate about his town'

TRIBUTE PAID TO DAVID SPICKETT

RIGHT: David Spickett, pictured on the day of his and Jackie's wedding.

REPORT by TIM CHAPMAN

MR David Spickett, the well known former funeral director, who has died at the age of 80, has been described as "a caring man who was passionate about the area he served and lived".

David was the fourth generation of a family occupying a unique place in Barry's history, having founded W Spickett & Sons Funeral Directors in 1837.

Fellow funeral director Lyndsay Ellis of The Vale Funeral Service, told The GEM that David would be remembered over a wide area as someone who cared about his community, and was a thorough professional.

"David was very well known and liked, and a community-minded person. He was a caring man, who was passionate about Cadoxton and Barry – and patriotic, too.

"David was a true professional, and known to be a stickler for keeping time while carrying out a funeral.

"He was supportive of local families and provided them with a personal, dignified service.

"He and his family are part of a proud tradition, being an independent, family-owned funeral director over many decades. His son, Andrew, joined him in the business for 14 years until David retired in the year 2000, when another independent, family-owned directors, Pidgeons of Cardiff took over."

They incorporated and kept the name until September 2012, when it changed to Lyndsay Ellis @ The Vale Funeral Service.

Lyndsay said: "We have still incorporated the Spickett name because I strive and am dedicated to maintaining the high standards and reputation established by David and his family.

"He will be a huge loss to the community, and it was a privilege knowing him. Our thoughts are with Jackie and the family at this time."

David passed away peacefully at the University Hospital of Wales on January 17, following a long illness.

He and his family regularly worshipped at the old village church of St Cadoc's in Cadoxton, though his funeral will take place at St Mary's Church, Holton Road, Barry, on Monday, February 3 at 1.30pm.

David leaves a wife Jackie, son Andrew, daughter-in-law Jane, and grandchildren Riah, Ruby, Morgan, Kiara, and Kleo. He was also father to his late daughter Jane.

WHAT'S ON IN BRIEF

Elderly exercise class in Barry

IF you elderly and prone to falls, frail, or maybe a carer looking after someone who suffers from falls, this class could help you, says Age Connect Cardiff and Vale.

It has started the Otago exercise class at The Senior Health Shop, Holton Road, Barry.

The class is designed to provide a series of leg-strengthening and balance-retraining exercises.

Age Connect says the exercises will help prevent falls, enabling people to live more independently and feel safe.

The classes are led on Monday afternoons, from 1pm- 2pm by a qualified Otago exercise instructress; cost £2; contact 01446 732385 for further information or just go along.

History group

THE next meeting of the Rhoose and District History Society takes place on Friday, January 31 at the lesser hall, in Rhoose Community Hall, Stewart Road, at 7.30pm. All are welcome – entry £1 to cover the cost.

Jumble sale

THE 1st DINAS POWYS Scout Group jumble sale takes place on Saturday, February 1 at 1.30pm in the Scout Hall, Highwalls Road, Dinas Powys. Admission is 50p.

YFC takes to the stage

ON February 7 at 7.30pm and February 8 at 7pm, the Glamorgan Federation of Young Farmers Clubs presents its annual entertainments competition at the Grand Pavilion, Porthcawl.

It sees members of Glamorgan's seven clubs take to the stage to showcase their talents – from singing and dancing to acting and comic sketches.

The winning cast will go forward to represent Glamorgan in the Wales finals in Llandudno in March and from that, the winning team go forward to the national finals held in Blackpool in May.

There will be performances from Neath, Gelligaer, Maendy and Bridgend, Llantrisant, Wick and Gower, along with final adjudication and results.

Tickets are priced at £10 per adult and £5 for under-16s.

Contact County Organiser, Gwyneth Thomas, on 07779 331839, or by email: glamorgan@yfc-wales.org.uk

Tickets are also available on the door each night. **HL**

Concert in aid of Haiti

BARRY Male Voice Choir has agreed to take part in a concert in the new hall at Holy Presbyterian Church on March 28, at 7.30pm in aid of the Haiti Hospital Appeal.

The event has been inspired by local campaigner, Godfrey Knight, who had organised a number of events to raise funds to help Haiti since it was devastated by an earthquake in 2010.

The GEM will be publicising more details of the concert, including ticket information, nearer the time.

As King Lear might have said about the EU...

HERE is King Lear forecasting Dave's announcement of his EU renegotiation plans:

"I will do such things, What they are yet I know not: but they shall be The terrors of the European Union."

R Bradshaw, Cowbridge.

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LOCAL CHILDREN RIDE THE STAGECOACH TO SUCCESS

ABOVE: Students who were successful in their LAMDA exams.

Spring term students with their certificates.

STUDENTS from Stagecoach theatre schools in Bridgend and the Vale are celebrating once again, having achieved "fantastic results" in recent London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art (LAMDA) exams.

The children aged six to 18 took an exam in acting or speaking of verse and prose – and all passed, maintaining the school's outstanding track record.

LAMDA awards are offered as an optional extra alongside weekly classes, and given the fact that they are a globally-recognised qualification, the uptake is always very high.

Husband and wife team Helene and Rob Reynolds said they were "extremely proud" of their award-winning schools in Bridgend and Cowbridge, and have also recently taken over as owners of Stagecoach Cardiff.

They are looking forward to an exciting 2014 for Stagecoach, following on from last year's 25th anniversary celebrations which gave students opportunities to perform at the NIA Birmingham, Her Majesty's Theatre, London, and the Grand Theatre, Swansea.

As the new term starts, new students of all ages and abilities are welcome to enrol. Its show term and main school students will be rehearsing and performing the musical *Shakespeare Rocks!*

The early stages children will showcase their singing, dance and drama in *Disney Magic.*

Other opportunities include Performance Arts Awards, which are fully-accredited group musical theatre exams. Students will also be busy rehearsing for performances in St David's Hall and the Wales Millennium Centre.

Group calls for polystyrene ban

FRIENDS of Barry Beaches are calling on people to log onto the Welsh Government's website and sign their e-petition calling for a ban on polystyrene food and drinks containers.

Contact: www.assemblywales.org/epetition-list-of-signatories.htm?petid=957.

The group will also be holding a beach clean on Sunday, January 26, meeting at 3pm on Porthkerry Beach, adjacent to the Forest Cafe.

Co-ordinator Coun Rob Curtis, said: "Polystyrene litter represents around a quarter of all the material we remove from the beaches. We now need your support to finally get it banned."

Vale DWP pilot scheme targets benefit fraud

VALE MP Alun Cairns has welcomed news that the Department for Work and Pensions is piloting a new communication campaign targeting benefit fraud and error in the Vale.

He commented: "Every year, £5.8 billion of taxpayers' money is lost because of benefit and tax credits fraud and error. This campaign is about helping to reduce the amount lost each year and creating a fairer welfare system by giving those claiming benefits the information needed to avoid errors occurring, as well as focusing on catching those committing benefit fraud.

"This campaign will run for some weeks. It aims to drive awareness amongst claimants, their friends, families and intermediary organisations of the need for claimants to report change of circumstances; and encourage the wider public to report suspected benefit fraud."

Nursery school celebrates good Estyn report

Children in the nursery school.

ESTYN inspectors have reported that Bute Cottage Nursery School in Penarth is a 'good school, with many strengths'.

Headteacher, Joanna Bryan, said: "We are delighted that Estyn has recognised the school's strengths, particularly our development of the children's Welsh language skills and our work with parents and families. The report states that teaching is consistently good and that all the children have a positive attitude to learning."

Coun Chris Elmore, Vale Council cabinet member for children's services, saying: "Bute Cottage is a popular nursery school, which gives many Penarth children an excellent start to school life. I'm pleased to see that the inspectors recognised that the school's prospects for improvement are good because of excellent and innovative partnerships with parents."

Chair of governors, Graham Roddis, said: "The governors would like to thank the staff for their ongoing hard work and commitment. Given that the inspection was at the start of a new academic year, with a large intake of new pupils, we are particularly pleased with the children's confidence, involvement and good work during the inspection week."

Events line-up on the Vale's rural calendar

THE Vale of Glamorgan Ploughing and Hedging Society held a meeting at the Six Bells Inn, Penmark on January 16 when chairman, Andrew Studley, thanked members for their support.

The society is now open to membership for a £10 per annum fee, and anyone wishing to join can contact the secretary, on 01446 710610 or on 07855 414759.

It is hoped that over the coming months, many supporters will become society members.

The society will be holding an instruction in ploughing weekend at Norton Hall Farm on March 29/30 by permission of Mr Graham David, on fields at Little West on the Ogmore-by-Sea road to Southerndown. All are welcome.

The annual tractor run in support of the Ed Evans Foundation will again start and finish in Frank Sutton Yard in St Mary Hill on April 27. The event is managed by the Aberthin Tractor Boys. Anyone wishing to enter should contact 07973 889712, or 07980 921990.

This year's hedge cutting competition will be held at Gileston Farm, Vale of Glamorgan on February 16, at 9.30am, by permission of Mr J Thomas.

The annual ploughing match will be held at Marcross Farm, Vale of Glamorgan, on Sunday, September 21 at 9am by permission of Mr Evans and family. Anyone wishing to enter should call 07980 921990.

The ploughing match will incorporate The Ferguson T.20 European Championship. All tractors and ploughs in this class were manufactured between 1946 and 1956.

This event will be run by The Ferguson Club in memory of the late Harry Ferguson. Please contact 01656 654440 for further details.

BASIL GEORGE

Praying together

EACH year, the churches of Britain and Ireland designate a week of prayer for Christian Unity – this year from January 19-26 – and Penarth churches of all denominations are marking this with a short daily prayer service together at 6pm.

The services taking place at All Saints Church, Victoria Square, are led by ministers from different denominations.

All are welcome for the remaining services on the evenings of January 23, 24.

All Saints Church is also holding a family service this Sunday (January 26) at 10am; suitable for all ages and centred on the story of Samson.

All are welcome. For more information, visit www.allsaintspenarth.org.uk.

ELDERLY'S COMMISSIONER MEETS BARRY CASTAWAYS!

THE Older People's Commissioner for Wales has praised members of an elderly awareness group that overcame the loss of its longstanding base and is now thriving at a new venue.

Older People's Commissioner, Sarah Rochira (far left), with club members.

Sarah Rochira and Vale AM Jane Hutt met 20 members of the Castaways Club, which now meets at the Casteland Community Centre, Belvedere Crescent, Barry.

Group members, aged between 60 and 93, have recruited volunteers to help run the club and have also received funding from the Vale Council to help spread awareness among more older people from the area.

Sarah said: "Having something to do and something to look forward to, as well as opportunities to socialise, are so important for older people's health and well-being and projects like this are vital to support this.

"I am full of admiration for the way the group overcame a number of setbacks, including the loss of their base, and are now providing a wonderful environment for older people to come together on a regular basis."

The visit formed part of the Commissioner's Engagement Roadshow, which met 5,400 people at 180 events across Wales in 2013.

The Castaways Club originally met at the council-owned Rondel House, but the use of this was withdrawn some years ago.

A new base was subsequently found at the refurbished Castleland Community Centre, which is managed by local residents on the Thompson Street estate.

Jane Hutt AM said: "A youth club for grown ups" was how one member of the Castaways described the thriving and lively club, which meets twice a week at the Castleland Community Centre.

"I was delighted to welcome the Older People's Commissioner, Sarah Rochira, who spoke with members and expressed her support for the way this successful club has been set up and run by its members."

Richard Jones
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EASY PARKING AVAILABLE

Barry holds key to improved rail service in Vale

A SCHEME that could mean more trains on the Vale of Glamorgan line has been praised by Vale AM Jane Hutt.

Network Rail is undertaking engineering works at Barry station to bring disused 'Platform 3' back into use.

A new back platform loop of track will also be installed, dedicated to the Barry Island service.

Work has been ongoing since autumn 2013 and, when complete, will improve reliability and unlock the potential for more trains to run between Barry and Cardiff, as well as Barry and Bridgend, via Llantwit Major.

"The expansion to the infrastructure at the station is a huge step forward for Barry and the Vale, and it's exciting to see it taking shape," she said.

"Crucially, the work is key to unlocking the potential for more frequent services.

"This will ultimately have significant economic and social benefits by improving access to jobs, education and training opportunities in Cardiff and elsewhere along the line."

The work at the station is part of a wider £220m scheme to improve services into Cardiff from the Valleys and Vale by 2015. Improvements will be undertaken at Cardiff Central and Cardiff Queen Street stations, as well as the renewal of the signalling across the network.

Due for completion by 2015, the £220m scheme, with funding of £23m from the Welsh Government, will potentially provide hundreds of extra rush-hour seats each day on rail services on the network.

Mark Langman, route managing director for Network Rail Wales, said: "Cardiff has the largest travelling workforce in Wales, with around 37 per cent of the all workers commuting from neighbouring authorities, like the Vale of Glamorgan.

"A large number of that workforce relies on rail and usage continues to increase, adding further demand on an already-congested railway.

"Enhancing the infrastructure at Barry is part of a wider bank of works in the south Wales region in helping to cater for the extra demand from the region."

Said Lis Burnett, cabinet member for regeneration, innovation, planning and transportation at Vale Council:

"More and more people now choose to travel by rail to get to and from work and to access leisure activities.

"Infrastructure improvements to enable more frequent services on this line will deliver on important economic, environmental and social goals for the communities across the Vale."

Reformed Hudson is now a really lovely boy!

The GEM is in partnership with the Dog's Trust to find caring homes for animals in their charge at Bridgend Rehoming Centre ***(01656 725219).***

HUDSON is a two-year-old Lurcher. When he came to us, he had some behavioural issues, but having received lots of training and TLC, he is a really lovely boy, and is a favourite of many of our volunteer dog walkers.

He adores people, and is always pleased to make a new friend. He also enjoy playing with other dogs, but can get a bit boisterous, so he will suit an owner who is used to his typical lurcher behaviour and who will help remind him to play gently!

He can live with another dog, preferably a female of a similar size. He is housetrained and can be left for a few hours. Hudson will make a wonderful addition to a home.

If you can offer Hudson a home, please call us on 01656 725219, or pop into Dogs Trust, Court Colman, Pen-y-Fai, Bridgend CF31 4NG.

We also have lots of other dogs of all shapes and sizes looking for homes – so if you have room in your life for a dog, please come and visit us. We are open from Tuesday-Sunday, at 12pm-4pm.

LINDA FEAGAN,
Supporter Relations Officer, Bridgend

BACKING FOR YELLOW LINES

RESIDENTS from the Witchell area of Barry have expressed concern about cars parking outside the Witchell post office, says independent councillor Richard Bertin.

"I fully support the residents who are calling for no waiting measures to be introduced at this site in Barry Road. This has been brought to my attention at our local PACT meeting and so I hope the Vale Council will do something about it," he commented.

Ty Hafan lottery draw winners

THE following are winning numbers in the Ty Hafan Crackerjackpot lottery draw number D810.

- **£2,000:** 205653.
- **The rollover, which now stands at £3,500 was not won this week.**
- **£10:** 861841, 929890, 488414, 647560, 857402, 979229, 682133, 624284, 873965, 732046, 741463, 491587, 164633, 511546, 350508, 525600, 293604, 750973, 281894, 427526, 588138.
- **£5:** 439352, 446778, 444061, 350136, 632825, 360653, 676531, 427011, 536059, 570596, 719225, 120128, 121066, 752835, 829240, 139809, 735645, 650165, 763443, 758661, 435279, 860985, 304130, 367463, 595726, 341598, 279291, 669139, 966244, 728211, 468019, 719985, 842444, 598582, 664889, 814394, 398881, 242665, 725063, 819771, 171127, 615576, 742491, 226293, 256753, 740796, 581314, 246915, 486583, 877731, 517400, 370725, 583813, 974492, 872630, 831047, 410942.

The GEM cannot be held responsible for any errors or omissions contained in the above.

For lottery information please telephone 029 2053 2300.

Concert celebrates Mozart's birthday at Dinas Powys

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart was born on January 27, 1756, and to mark the anniversary, Lodron Ensemble will present a concert on January 27 at 7.30pm in the Parish Hall, Britway Road, Dinas Powys.

The group of players, all from the orchestra of Welsh National Opera, led by Antony Tarlton, conductor of the Dinas Powys Orchestra, has been assembled to perform a serenade, which was commissioned by the Count Lodron to celebrate the Countess Lodron's name day in August 1787, and entitled 'Lodronische Nachtmusik'.

This piece, played by two violins, one viola, one double-bass and two horns is described by one acknowledged Mozart expert as a 'Salzburg Masterpiece' but is, surprisingly, very rarely performed.

It will be preceded by the better known serenade, 'Eine Kleine Nachtmusik'.

Afterwards, there will be a celebratory glass of wine.

Tickets are available from members of the Dinas Powys Orchestra and the Dinas Powys Community Council office, or telephone 01446 796733.

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Tristan Greedy would like to inform all of his customers that due to business expansion they have moved from the Heritage Business Park, Wick Rd, Llantwit Major to their new premises (next door to the Post Office sorting office), Llandow, Vale Business Park - and it's business as normal.

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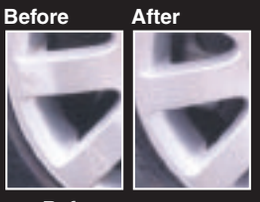

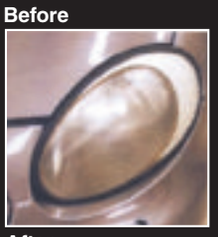

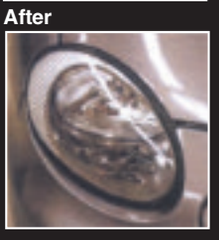

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What is on, and where

Mayor's coffee morning

MAYOR of Barry, Coun Claire Curtis, will be hosting a coffee morning on Saturday, January 25 in the Mayor's Parlour, Barry Town Council, 7 Gladstone Road, Barry, at 10.30am-12pm in aid of the Mayor's charities, Ty Hapus and The JAM Fund. Entry fee will be £3.

For more information, contact 01446 704921 or email juliehurd@barrytowncouncil.gov.uk.

Quaker questions

BRIDGEND Quaker Meeting will be holding the second session in a series of public events promoting Quakerism at Bridgend Quaker Meeting House, 87 Park Street, 7pm to 9pm on Tuesday, January 28. The topic will be 'Quakers and Silence'.

Coping with depression

VALE Council-led Barry Communities First, in partnership with Journeys mental health charity, is launching a free depression-busting course to help people improve their mental health.

"This course will explore the symptoms of depression and help to find tools and strategies that will enable you to maintain long term mental health and wellbeing," a spokesman explained.

From January 30 at 11am–1pm it will run for eight weeks at Newydd Barry Hub, 121 Broad Street, Barry.

Contact Bethanie on 07501 468 694 or email bethanie.morgan@newydd.co.uk.

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL • CYNGOR BRO MORGANNWG

Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act, 1990
Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (Wales) Order 2012

Development that may affect a Conservation Area/ Datblygu a allai effeithio ar Ardal Gadwraeth

Application No:/
Rhif y cais: 2014/00014/FUL
Proposal:/Cynnig: Proposed new shopfront and first floor windows
Location:/Lleoliad: Head to Head, 5 & 5C, Station Road, Dinas Powys
Conservation Area:/
Ardal Gadwraeth Dinas Powys

Application No:/
Rhif y cais: 2014/00023/FUL
Proposal:/Cynnig: Proposed Horticulture unit and associated works
Location:/Lleoliad: Waitrose, Bird Lane, Cowbridge
Conservation Area:/
Ardal Gadwraeth Cowbridge

Application No:/
Rhif y cais: 2014/00026/FUL
Proposal:/Cynnig: Conversion of existing coach house to dwelling, renewal of existing planning approval
Location:/Lleoliad: Llaneinydd, St. Nicholas
Conservation Area:/
Ardal Gadwraeth St. Nicholas

Application No:/
Rhif y cais: 2014/00028/FUL
Proposal:/Cynnig: Form new extension to side of the property and internal alterations. Front window to be changed back to the original style timber framed windows. Enlarge first floor to form room in roof over new extension.
Location:/Lleoliad: 25b, Archer Road, Penarth
Conservation Area:/
Ardal Gadwraeth Penarth

Application No:/
Rhif y cais: 2014/00032/FUL
Proposal:/Cynnig: Two storey, single storey and first floor extensions together with double garage and BBQ enclosure
Location:/Lleoliad: Causeway House, Causeway Hill, Llanblethian, Cowbridge
Conservation Area:/
Ardal Gadwraeth Llanblethian

Application(s) of General Interest/ Ceisiadau o Ddiddordeb Cyffredinol

Application No:/
Rhif y cais: 2013/01249/FUL
Proposal:/Cynnig: Change of use and conversion of building to provide residential accommodation in the form of 15 affordable dwellings, retail unit (Use Class A1 / Use Class A2 / Use Class A3 Restaurant / Cafe), access arrangements, and associated works
Location:/Lleoliad: Haydock House, 1, Holton Road, Barry

Application No:/
Rhif y cais: 2013/01279/OUT
Proposal:/Cynnig: Residential development with associated access and associated works
Location:/Lleoliad: Land south of Cog Road, Sully

Application No:/
Rhif y cais: 2014/00006/FUL
Proposal:/Cynnig: Proposed office building and associated works, including car parking, access, landscaping and variation of condition 9 of planning permission ref. 2011/00673/FUL to allow development within existing retained grassland
Location:/Lleoliad: Units 5 and 6, Llandow Business Park, Sutton Road, Llandow

Application No:/
Rhif y cais: 2014/00008/RES
Proposal:/Cynnig: Reserved Matters for erection of 40 dwellings
Location:/Lleoliad: Former Emporium Garden Centre, Fferm Goch, Llangan

Application No:/
Rhif y cais: 2014/00022/FUL
Proposal:/Cynnig: Application to vary Conditions 7 and 8 of planning permission 2013/00699/FUL
Location:/Lleoliad: RAF St. Athan, St Athan

Application No:/
Rhif y cais: 2014/00042/FUL
Proposal:/Cynnig: Construction of a two storey football centre with parking
Location:/Lleoliad: Opposite Hensol Villas, CCFC Training Centre, Hensol

Departure from Development Plan/ Gwyro o'r Cynllun Datblygu

Application No:/
Rhif y cais: 2013/00632/FUL
Proposal:/Cynnig: Construction of 25 residential units and associated works
Location:/Lleoliad: Site of former quarry, Leckwith Road, Llandough

Application No:/
Rhif y cais: 2013/01279/OUT
Proposal:/Cynnig: Residential development with associated access and associated works
Location:/Lleoliad: Land south of Cog Road, Sully

Application No:/
Rhif y cais: 2014/00006/FUL
Proposal:/Cynnig: Proposed office building and associated works, including car parking, access, landscaping and variation of condition 9 of planning permission ref. 2011/00673/FUL to allow development within existing retained grassland
Location:/Lleoliad: Units 5 and 6, Llandow Business Park, Sutton Road, Llandow

Application No:/
Rhif y cais: 2014/00008/RES
Proposal:/Cynnig: Reserved Matters for erection of 40 dwellings
Location:/Lleoliad: Former Emporium Garden Centre, Fferm Goch, Llangan

Application No:/
Rhif y cais: 2014/00042/FUL
Proposal:/Cynnig: Construction of a two storey football centre with parking
Location:/Lleoliad: Opposite Hensol Villas, CCFC Training Centre, Hensol

Application(s) with Environmental Statement/ Cais (au) gyda Datganiad Amgylcheddol

NOTICE UNDER ARTICLE 8

Proposed development at Land south of Cog Road, Sully.

I give notice that Taylor Wimpey plc is applying to The Vale of Glamorgan Council for Planning Permission to Residential development with associated access and associated works.

The proposal has been submitted with an environmental statement which can be inspected at the address given below. Members of the public may obtain copies of the environmental statement at a charge of £150.00 from Savills, 12, Windsor Place, Cardiff, CF10 3BY or a free CD version, so long as stocks last.

Members of the public may inspect copies of:

- The application.
- The plans.
- The environmental statement.
- Other documents submitted with the application.

at the address given below during all reasonable hours until 13 February, 2014.

Anyone who wishes to make representations about this application should write to the Head of Planning and Transportation at the address given below by 13 February 2014 quoting reference 2013/01279/OUT.

HYSBYSIAD O DAN ERTHYGL 8

Datblygiad arfaethedig yn Land south of Cog Road, Sully

Hysbysir trwy hyn Taylor Wimpey plc n gwneud cais i Gyngor Bro Morgannwg am Ganiatâd Cynllunio ar gyfe Residential development with associated access and associated works

Cafodd y cynnig ei gyflwyno gyda datganiad amgylcheddol sydd ar gael i'w ddarllen yn y cyfeiriad isod. Caiff aelodau o'r cyhoedd brynu copïau o'r datganiad am £150.00 from Savills, 12, Windsor Place, Cardiff, CF10 3BY or a free CD version, tra bydd y stoc ar gael.

Caiff aelodau o'r cyhoedd hefyd ddarllen copïau o'r:

- cais;
- cynlluniau;
- datganiad amgylcheddol;
- dogfennau eraill a gyflwynwyd gyda'r cais,

yn y cyfeiriad isod yn ystod oriau rhesymau tan 13 February 2014.

Dylai unrhyw un sydd am wneud sylwadau ar y cais ysgrifennu at Bennaeth Cynllunio a Chludiant y cyngor (gwelwch y dudalen ar waelod y dudalen) erbyn 13 February 2014 an ddyfynnu'r cyfeirnod 2013/01279/OUT.

Details may be inspected for 21 days at the address given below, or via **http://vogonline.planning-register.co.uk/**

Gall manylion eu harchwilio am 21 diwrnod yn y cyfeiriad a roddir isod, neu drwy **http://vogonline.planning-register.co.uk/**

Dated / Dyddiedig: 23 January, 2014

M. Goldsworthy
Operational Manager, Development & Building Control,
Vale of Glamorgan Council, Dock Office, Barry. CF63 4RT

Spot's cat chalet returns home!

SPOT, the Cadoxton cat who lost her outdoor chalet, is overjoyed because it has been found!

Last week, Spot's owner, Sylvia Archer had spoken of her shock and disappointment that the cat chalet had been taken from her property while she was out on New Year's Eve.

Black and white Spot had enjoyed her snoozes in the chalet during daylight hours, returning to the house at night. She was so downcast at its disappearance that she took to sitting where it used to stand!

A neighbour had seen a man with a hoodie walking up Main Street with the chalet, but didn't make the connection until later.

The day after our story hit the streets, the chalet was found not far from Sylvia's house.

ABOVE: Spot can now look forward to more happy snoozes in her chalet.

A delighted Sylvia contacted The GEM to say: "I've got great news, Spot has her 'chalet' back!

"A guy called at the house on Friday and said he had found it at the top of Main Street.

"I'm sure it was returned due to the piece in The GEM – many thanks from me and Spot."

Porthcawl man is recognised with a British Empire Medal

A PORTHCAWL man received the British Empire Medal (BEM) in the New Year's Honours List – a reward for 15 years of volunteering for a Forces' charity.

Dave Davies, who lives in Danygraig, Porthcawl, has been involved with SSAFA for 15 years, and has been the Mid-Glamorgan branch secretary for 12 years.

He explained that SSAFA provides lifelong support for Service personnel and their families, and said that last year, in the Bridgend area alone, the charity helped in 57 cases, distributing £63,000.

He said: "We are all volunteers, and my office is in a spare bedroom."

There are 20 volunteers in the Mid-Glamorgan area, which covers Merthyr, RCT and Bridgend county borough.

Dave explained that the charity did not do a great deal of fundraising. Rather, the volunteers' expertise comes from matching people in need with a charitable organisation that is set up to help them.

He said: "As an example, we had a case of a former Serviceman who was an HGV driver, and we able to contact the Road Haulage Benevolent Fund to get financial assistance."

Dave Davies of SSAFA, who was awarded the BEM in the New Year's Honours List.

Acting as branch secretary has, until recently, been something that Dave had to make time for after work.

He said: "I was a good old-fashioned woodwork teacher, and when I retired from that I worked in the accounts department of a solicitors' office."

Now, Dave is completely retired, giving him a little more time to devote to SSAFA duties.

He and his wife of five years, Anne, are now awaiting details of when and where he will receive his BEM!

Penmark resident fined for failing to produce his horse passports

PANDELIS TSOFLIAS of Penmark, near Barry, pleaded guilty to four charges under the Equine Identification (Wales) Regulations 2009 at Cardiff Magistrates Court on January 16.

Vale of Glamorgan Council Trading Standards officers began their investigation after reports of fly grazing on council-owned land in Rhoose. Mr Tsoflias admitted ownership of the animals only when officers and contractors attended the site to remove three horses.

Requests were made by Trading Standards for Mr Tsoflias to produce the horse passports; however, these were not forthcoming and Mr. Tsoflias provided false and misleading information to the investigating officer.

He pleaded guilty to one count of failing to produce a passport without undue delay, for which he was fined £150, two counts of failing to produce a horse passport for which he was fined £300, and one count of obstruction for providing information that he knew to be false, for which he was fined £200. He was required to pay a £65 victim surcharge and costs of £780, bringing the total to £1,495.

Principal Trading Standards Officer Christina Roberts-Kinsey said: "This result highlights the importance of ensuring each horse is correctly identified and that passports should be produced without delay to Trading Standards officers. The Vale of Glamorgan Council has a zero tolerance policy in place with regard to fly grazing."

Search for owner as cat found 'in poor state' dies

RSPCA Cymru is appealing for help to find the owner of a cat found in Barry with "the worst matted fur" ever seen by an RSPCA inspector.

The female tortoiseshell and white cat was seen in Hunter Street by a member of the public on Tuesday (January 14) in a very poor state, underweight and lethargic.

Following an examination by a vet, 110 grammes of matted fur was removed from the cat's body. It was also established that the cat wasn't microchipped or wearing a collar.

Inspector Sophie Daniels said: "This poor cat had the worst case of matting I have ever seen, the fur had knotted into tennis ball-sized lumps all over her body."

"We would like to trace the owner of the cat and would like to speak to anyone who recognises her, or who has information about where she might have come from."

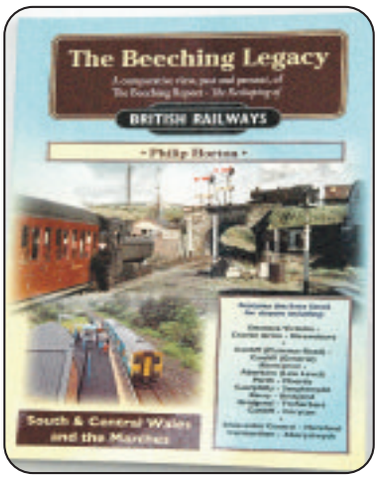
Sadly, due to breathing difficulties, the elderly cat had to be put down a few days later.

• *Anyone with information is asked to to contact the information line on 0300 123 8018 where they can leave a message for Inspector Daniels. All calls will be treated in confidence.*

If you would like to help the RSPCA, you can give £3 now by texting HELP to 78866 (text costs £3 + one standard network rate message).

ABOVE: The "worst matted fur" ever seen by an RSPCA inspector and BELOW: After the haircut!

Remembering when Dr Beeching wielded his axe on the railways



BOOK REVIEW BY MIKE WILCOCK

The Beeching Legacy South and Central Wales and the Marches, by Philip Horton; price, £20; Silver Links Books.

THIS latest book by Philip Horton demonstrates his lively interest in railway and his knowledge in this volume of south Wales.

With over 144 pages, we start at chapter 1 with memories of the 1960s, with pop music and Tom Jones and Shirley Bassey. Also the production of over 19,500,000 tons of coal and the employment of 83,000 miners. All memories now.

At that time, all trains were powered by steam and he has many maps to illustrate the lines running through the area. This chapter also considers the impact of nationalisation in 1948 and the implementation of the Railway Modernisation Plan of 1955.

Chapter 2 looks at the impact of the Beeching Report for the modernisation of passenger services in the area and the fact that most main line wayside stations had takings of less than £5,000 per annum.

Chapter 3 refers to passenger services listed for withdrawal by Beeching; June 15, 1964 saw the line from Barry to Bridgend closed, but restored in August 2005.

However, Barry Island to Barry Pier closed in 1976 and it is very doubtful if it will ever re-open through the tunnel.

The various sections in the book are very well illustrated, with detailed maps and many new and unseen photographs. In the Barry to Bridgend section, we see ex-GWR tank engines at Llantwit Major in the 1950s, DMU passing Rhoose cement works and Porthkerry No 1 tunnel and finally the new bay platform at Bridgend, which is now back in use.

Although the book is priced at £20, it is one that will be used many times for map and photo reference – and no doubt you will be encouraged to travel by train again in south Wales.

Plea to pet owners

MOST dog owners are kind, responsible people who religiously clean up after their pets.

Unfortunately, however, a minority of people can't be bothered to do so.

In recent months, the pavements of Llantwit Major and Llanmaes village have witnessed an escalation of dog faeces polluting our environment.

We are all very fortunate to live in the Vale and should be proud of our locality. A recent visitor, however, was heard to comment that "our pavements are some of the dirtiest they have encountered".

I would encourage everyone to be vigilant and attempt to identify the few irresponsible culprits who are flouting the law and acting in such an anti-social manner.

Name and address supplied.

Two call-outs for Dock Lifeboat

VOLUNTEERS at Barry Dock RNLI lifeboat station responded to two emergency calls over the weekend.

The first was in the early hours of Saturday morning when they were called to help someone who was in a distressed state on the coast line.

The South Wales Police were able to help the person and the lifeboat crew returned to dry land just before 1am.

Later that day, the crew were called out again to investigate reports of a small boat adrift off Nell's Point. The crew found the empty boat and towed it back to the harbour.

The education and fundraising volunteers have also resumed their work for the new year. New volunteers for the teams are needed.

Volunteering with these teams gives an opportunity to help save lives at sea without having to risk your own as the crews do.

Please call the station on 01446 735678 to find out more.

AP

Call for volunteers

THE Alzheimer's Society is calling on local carers, former carers or people with dementia to support the charity as research network volunteers.

The call follows the G8 dementia summit last month when Alzheimer's Society chief executive, Jeremy Hughes, pledged to spend at least £100 million on dementia research in the next decade.

"Research network volunteers use their personal experiences of dementia to help Alzheimer's Society make crucial decisions about dementia research, including setting research priorities and supporting ongoing research projects," a spokeswoman explained.

For more information on becoming a Research Network volunteer, contact Matt Murray on 0207 423 3603 or matt.murray@alzheimers.org.uk.

'Choirs of Barry' concert for Mayor's charities

THE Mayor of Barry, Coun Claire Curtis is proud to be presenting The Choirs of Barry Concert at St Mary's Church, Holton Road, Barry, on Friday, February 28 at 7pm.

The concert will feature Barry Male Voice Choir, Barry Ladies Choir, Barry Choral Society and guest soloist Jodi Bird.

Tickets are priced at £5 and can be purchased at the offices of Barry Town Council, 7 Gladstone Road, Barry CF62 8NA.

All proceeds go to the town mayor's chosen charities which are: Ty Hapus and The Jam Fund.

For more information, please contact Julie Hurd, Mayor's secretary on 01446 704921 or email: juliehurd@barrytowncouncil.gov.uk.

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Celebrate Chinese New Year
Year of the Horse - Monday 3rd February
plus Chinese Lion Dancing from 7pm
(booking advisable)
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★★★ Eat as much as you like ★★★
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10 Broad Street, Barry CF62 7AA
www.orientaldiner.co.uk
FREE WiFi

Hockey club are back with a bang!

PENARTH Hockey Club returned to action in fine fashion after the festive period, recording two victories that mirrored the opening weekend of the Davis Wood Hockey League season.

After the long Christmas break, the 1st XI were keen to start the second half of the season with a bang, and welcomed Wotten-under-Edge to Barry Sports Centre, having beaten the same opposition 4-1 in their earlier fixture.

Wotten started the better of the two teams and had the upper hand in the early part of the game. As they controlled much of the first 10 minutes, Penarth relied on the sharpness of goalkeeper Mark Harris, who made a couple of good saves to keep the sides on level terms.

Inspired by Harris, Penarth started to get a foothold and, securing greater possession, were able to build through the new-look midfield of Gareth Herman, skipper Mark Thomas and Richard Baker. With some good interplay, the trio eventually found the evergreen Phil Lane in space in the 'D' and his drive to the baseline saw the ball squared to Sam Wooding, who slotted past the helpless Wotten 'keeper.

Despite the goal, however, the game turned into a scrappy encounter, with neither team showing a great deal of quality. Penarth were then the architects of their own downfall, as two spells of sloppy defending allowed Wotten to score twice and go into the break 2-1 up.

Taking full advantage of the interval to regroup, Penarth started the second half looking like a different team. Dominating possession through some well-structured passing moves, the home forwards linked with Chris Baker to find plenty of space in the final third.

But it wasn't a forward who scored the equalising goal, however, as club stalwart James Davies eventually fired the ball into the roof of the net, following an inch-perfect pass from Chris Baker.

Wotten had no answer to the intensity that Penarth were now displaying and, after a brilliant turnover just outside the 'D', the ball was squared to Richard Baker, who wasted little time in putting the Bears back ahead.

Penarth now looked to secure the victory going into the last period of the game and, while the defence of Davies, Dave Stevens, Sam Docherty, Tom Harran kept things tight at the back, the space created as Wotton pressed forward allowed Chris Baker to find Lane with another square ball, and the veteran put the game to bed, the final score 4-2.

The 2nd XI similarly looked to start the second half of their campaign with another victory over weaker opposition, but had to travel west through some appalling weather to do so.

Trinity had propped up the division from the outset, and the visitors knew that a win, as well as a hatful of goals, was the only result that would satisfy absent captain Nick Pratt. However, the four-week break since any meaningful action meant that the team – missing a few regular faces – were more than a little rusty (even before the rain!)

Once a couple of umpires had been prised out into the inclement conditions, it was clear that Penarth would dictate the outcome of the game, and taking an early lead through Richard Bromily – with his first ever goal – provided the ideal start. More chances came and went before Craig Llewellyn followed suit with another strike from just inside the 'D' to make it 2-0.

While the game should have become a landslide, however, a combination of wasted chances and basic errors meant that Trinity remained in touch, a couple of breaks into the Penarth 25 underlining the threat that remained, despite the hosts having only a few experienced players.

While the first half had been largely dry, the rain returned after the break, making conditions underfoot tricky and opportunities harder to take. Penarth continued to dominate without adding to their advantage, with Tom Parkinson in particular needing the goalmouth to be a couple of feet wider.

A Llewellyn short corner strike was then illegally stopped on the line, but the resultant penalty flick was well saved by the Trinity 'keeper, before Paul Thomas eventually put the game beyond doubt with the visitors' third goal.

Doubt still remains as to whether the lob was a deft piece of skill from the veteran or the result of misfortune on the defender's part, but Thomas was in no doubt that the goal was his!

With Penarth 'keeper Calum Grant called into action just once in 70 minutes, the game was as one-sided as the result suggested, but the Vale side might be grateful that goal difference is unlikely to be a deciding factor in their league fate this season.

This weekend sees the 1st XI hosting Gloucestershire side Cleevilians at Barry, while the 2nd XI travel to Hawthorn looking to avenge the six-goal drubbing handed to them by Llan & Caerphilly back in October.

Penarth Hockey Club always welcomes new, old and returning players, umpires, supporters, friends and helpers, regardless of age and ability. Training takes place on the artificial turf at Barry Sport Centre every Wednesday, with the juniors in action between 6-7pm and seniors between 7-8pm.

Further information can be obtained from: club secretary Dave Stevens at: d_stevens81@hotmail.co.uk.

CL

Llanharry take firm grip on top spot

ON Tuesday, January 14, there was a full programme of league matches in the Cowbridge Darts League.

Llanharry stayed top by winning 9-0 against Edmondes A, while Edmondes B beat the Highwayman Inn 8-1.

In a close fought match, the Edmondes C defeated the Hare and Hounds 5-4. In the other matches, the Farmers Arms lost to the Cross Inn 4-5 and Old Post Ladies beat the Star Inn 5-4.

Ann Hustwick of the Old Post Ladies set a new high of 112 for the ladies' three-dart-out in that match.

So, the league standings are: Llanharry (80 points), Edmondes B (70), Edmondes C (50), Hare and Hounds (47), Cross Inn (43), Edmondes A (41), Highwayman Inn and Farmers Arms (38), Old Post Ladies (20), The Star Inn (14).

The next matches are on Tuesday, January 28, when there is a full programme of league matches. Edmondes B hosts the Star Inn, the Farmers Arms hosts the Highwayman Inn, the Hare and Hounds hosts the Edmondes A, the Old Post Ladies hosts Llanharry and the Cross Inn hosts the Edmondes C. The first matches start at 8.30pm and spectators are welcome.

For further information e-mail, Paul at cowbridgedarts@gmail.com, up-to-date information can be found on the website: darts.apsn.co.uk.

PJT

Barrivale bridge results

LATEST results from Barrivale Bridge Club, January 14:

1st Peter Millar and Tim Barsby 60.42 per cent; 2nd Mike Close and Mick Green 59.03; 3rd Jane Brook and Kay Dyer 55.56 . Vivien Liles & Hilary Laurence won on handicap.

New members are always welcome at Barrivale - if you would like to join us ring 01446 418380 or 01446 733425 or call at the Pioneer Hall, Beryl Road, Barry on Tuesdays at 7pm.

MB

Sully bridge club results

MONDAY, January 13:

North/South - 1st Pat Evans/Jane Greatrex 62.95, 2nd Vernon Pearne/Chris Davies 60.71, 3rd Ev Kerslake/Roger Cradick 58.04.

East/West - 1st Bunty Wiseman/Jane Brook 67.21, 2nd Hazel Hessian/Brenda Shepherd 60.25, 3rd Peter Millar/Dianne Jones 58.61.

Wednesday, January 15:

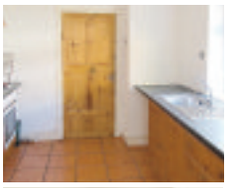
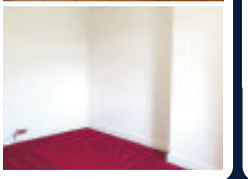
North/South - 1st Ev Kerslake/Vernon Pearne 57.18, 2nd Anne Johns/Bunty Wiseman 56.25, 3rd Carol James/Alan James 55.85.

East/West - 1st Bill Leyburn/Lynne Leyburn 58.59, 2nd Linda Watson/Veronica Flitney 57.58, 3rd Sam Fellows/Norman Ryley 54.80.

EK

174 Holton Road
Barry
Vale of Glamorgan
CF63 4HN

GROVE ESTATES

LEE ROAD, BARRY
- 3 bedroom mid terrace property within walking distance to town centre
- Low maintenance garden to rear
- Gas central heating & double glazed throughout
- An ideal investment opportunity or 1st time purchase
- Offered freehold with vacant possession

£90,000

CHURCH COTTAGE, RHOOSE
- Beautifully maintained & extended 3 bedroom semi detached property
- Original cottage dating back to around early 19th century & extended in approx 1980's
- Generously proportioned grounds to rear with parking for approx 5-6 cars
- Balcony accessed from master bedroom with views over Rhoose
- Offered freehold and open to reasonable offers

£255,000

BRYN AWEL, BUTRILLS ROAD, BARRY
- A 4 bedroom detached property in popular location
- Gas central heating & double glazed
- Detached garage & driveway
- Spacious gardens
- Views across Bristol channel

£235,000

SSTC

MERTHYR STREET, BARRY
- 2 bedroom mid terrace property in central location
- Gas central heating & double glazing with enclosed garden to rear
- In need of some work throughout
- Recently improved by Castleland regeneration scheme externally
- Offered freehold with vacant possession & no chain

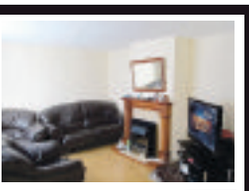
£89,950

SSTC

CHURCH ROAD, BARRY
- 3 bedroom mid terrace property close to transport links in & out of Barry
- Gas central heating & double glazing
- Enclosed garden to rear
- Would make an ideal investment or 1st purchase
- Offered freehold with vacant possession & no chain

£92,950

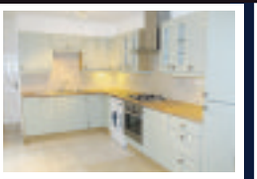
SSTC



ATLANTIC PLACE, BARRY
- 3 bedroom semi detached propery in quiet cul-de-sac location
- Gas central heating & double glazed
- Driveway for up to 3 cars
- Good sized corner plot with front & rear gardens
- Offered frehold with no chain

£125,000

SSTC



MAIN STREET, BARRY
- Very well presented 3 bedroom mid terrace property in popular location
- Gas central heating & double glazed throughout
- 2 family bathrooms
- Good sized rear gardens
- Offered with no chain

£115,000

RENTALS

Holton Road, Barry
1 Bedroom Second Floor Flat.
GCH. DG. Unfurnished. **£360 pcm**

St Mary's Avenue, Barry
3 Bedroom Terrace.
GCH. DG. Unfurnished. **£600 pcm**

St Marys Avenue, Barry
3 Bedroom Bay Fronted. GCH.
DG. Unfurnished. **£600 pcm**

Dock View Road, Barry
3 Bedroom Double Bay Fronted.
GCH. DG. Unfurnished.
£625 pcm

01446 747474 sales@e-grove.co.uk www.e-grove.co.uk

NEW

Cornwall Road, Barry
2 Bedrooms - No Chain
Lounge With Balcony Off
First Floor Bathroom/WC
£105,000 D56

NEW

Aeron Close, Barry
3 Bedrooms
Good Size, Upvc DG, Part GCH
Modern Kitchen & Bathroom
£107,000 D62

NEW

Carn Yr Ebol, Barry
3 Bedrooms
2 Receps & Conservatory
Garage & Drive Opposite
£172,500 tbc

Chris Davies

Rhoose 01446 711900
Llantwit Major 01446 792020
Barry 01446 700007
sales@chris-davies.co.uk

Woodlands Road, Barry
1st/2nd Flr Maisonette - 3 Double Beds, Large Lounge/Diner - Sea Views, Kitchen/Brkf, Bathroom/wc & Cloaks/wc
£99,950 E48

Cross Street, Barry
3 Bedrooms
Through Lounge/Dining Room
Walking Distance To Rail Station
£112,500 D63

Princes Street, Barry
3 Bedrooms
West End Location
GF Shower Rm & FF Bathroom
£119,950 D55

Gladstone Road, Barry
5 Bedrooms
3 Receptions, Double Garage
Superb Views & Work Required
£139,950 F38

Solva Close, Barry
3 Bedrooms
Lovely Order Throughout
Generous Rear Garden
£124,950 C72

Teifi Drive, Barry
5 Bedrooms, Lovely Family Garden
2 Receps & Dine-In Kitchen
With Appliances
£219,950 C69

Springfield Rise, Barry
3 Bedrooms & All In Very Good Order
Conservatory & Kitchen/Breakfast Rm
Generous Rear Garden & Outhouses
£159,950 D69

Nant Talwg Way, Barry
5 Bedrooms
Improved With Side Extension
Backing Woodland, Lovely Gardens
£299,950 C70

Fonmon Park Road, Rhoose
3 Bedrooms, Backing Open Fields
Nicely Tucked Away
£129,950 D64

Mayflower Way, Rhoose
3 Bed Semi Detached
2 Reception Rooms
2 Bathrooms, Cloaks/WC
£169,950 D66

Celtic Way, Rhoose
3 Double Bedrooms
1000s Spent; 27' Kitchen/Diner!
Drive, Garage, Luxury En-suite & More
£189,950 C75

Llanmead Gardens, Rhoose
4 Bedrooms
Enclosed Rear Garden
Detached Double Garage
£209,950 C69

WANTED

Between Culverhouse and Cowbridge in a rural location.

Detached 5/6 bedrooms with between 2 and 10 acres suitable for equestrian and ideally with some outbuildings. The property should be in excellent condition internally and externally and as yet has not been offered to the open market.

Circa £850k.
Discretion assured
Contact
christopher.davies@chris-davies.co.uk
or 029 2055 5050

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Three storey four-bedroom house with: downstairs wet room; integral garage; driveway; four bedrooms; and enclosed rear garden.

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These properties are aimed at aspiring home owners who can rent now and buy the properties later. Occupiers will save for their mortgage deposit while renting.

Rent: £173.08 per week.

Who will qualify for the Rent First Scheme?

To be eligible for the scheme, applicants must:

- be over 18; and
- have lived or worked in the Vale of Glamorgan for six months, priority will be given to those who have a local connection to Llantwit Major.

Applicants will need to be first time buyers, or consider themselves first-time buyers in their own right, and meet certain affordability criteria.

For an application pack, contact the Housing Strategy Team.
Telephone: (01446) 700 111
E-mail: housingstrategy@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk

homes4u HOTLINE 01446 709840

NEW HOMES FOR RENT AT SCHOLARS VIEW, COWBRIDGE

Wales & West Housing, in partnership with the Vale of Glamorgan Council and Taylor Wimpy, are proud to announce that our exciting new development at Scholars View, Town Mill Road, Cowbridge is nearing completion, with an expected handover date at the end of April 2014

Our new housing scheme will comprise of five houses:

- one, two-bedroom four person house,
- three, three-bedroom five person houses and
- one, four-bedroom six person house.

Rents will begin from approximately £95 per week.

In consultation with the Vale of Glamorgan Council and Cowbridge and Llanblethian Community Councillors, it has been agreed that priority will be given to HOMES4U members who have a local connection to the area.

Interested HOMES4U members should bid for these new properties in the usual way, and the dead-line for all bids is 29 January 2014.

For further information regarding this new development contact:

Wales & West Housing, Housing Options Team.
Freephone 0800 052 2526
e-mail housingoptionsteam @wwha.co.uk

The deadline for Homes4u applicants to bid on these properties is **29/01/2014.**

Tai Wales & West Housing

APPLICATION DEADLINE: 5:00PM 29 January 2014

homes4u HOTLINE 01446 709840

To apply call the hotline, e-mail us at
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or apply in writing to:
Vale of Glamorgan Council
Visible Services and Housing
Civic Offices, Holton Road, Barry CF63 4RU or
Newydd Housing Association
121 Broad Street, Barry CF62 7AL

ARTHUR DAVIS COURT, BARRY (2)

H4U Reference
Suitable for a single person or couple over 55 – no pets
- 2 x studio apartments
- First floor (no lift)
- Gas central heating
- Double-glazing
- Communal gardens

Rent £108.77 per week including service charges

BELLE VUE CLOSE, PENARTH

H4U Reference 242945
Suitable for a single person or couple over 55 – no pets
- One-bedroom flat
- First floor
- Central heating
- Double-glazing
- Community alarm

Rent £95.70 per week inc water and alarm charges

BUTTLEE COURT, BARRY

Priority given to applicants with an excellent tenancy history

H4U Reference 1058691
Suitable for a family meeting the maximum occupancy requirements – no pets
- Two-bedroom flat
- Lower ground floor
- Central heating
- Double-glazing

Rent £81.69 per week

CWRT HORTOP, BARRY

H4U reference 1105539
Suitable for a family meeting the maximum occupancy requirements
- Two-bedroom flat
- First floor
- Gas central heating
- Double glazing
- Own front door/parking

Rent £75.58 per week including service charges

FAIROAKS, DINAS POWYS

H4U Reference 237116
Suitable for a single person or couple over 55 – no pets
- One-bedroom flat
- First floor
- Central heating
- Double-glazing
- Warden and alarm

Rent £105.23 per week inc. water and alarm charges

GREYBURN HOUSE, BARRY

H4U Reference 1104332
Suitable for a single person or couple over 40 – no pets
- One-bedroom flat
- Ground floor
- Gas central heating
- Double-glazing
- Parking

Rent £82.77 per week including service charges

HANOVER COURT, BARRY

Preference given to applicants with a two bedroom need

H4U reference 973439
Suitable for a single person over 60 (55 with medical needs)
- Two-bedroom flat
- First floor
- Central heating
- Double-glazing

Rent £80.01 per week

HARVEY STREET, BARRY

H4U Reference 985216
Suitable for a family meeting the maximum occupancy requirements
- Three-bedroom house
- Central heating
- Double-glazing
- Enclosed rear garden

Rent £87.71 per week

HATHAWAY PLACE, BARRY

H4U Reference 211570
Suitable for a family meeting the maximum occupancy requirements
- Three-bedroom house
- Central heating
- Double-glazing
- Gardens

Rent £99.56 per week including water charge

LIDDICOAT COURT, BARRY

H4U Reference 366558
Suitable for a single person or couple over 40 – no pets
- One-bedroom flat
- Second floor (no lift)
- Gas central heating
- Double-glazing

Rent £75.66 per week including service charges

MAES YR YSGOL, BARRY

H4U Reference 1103179
Suitable for a family meeting the maximum occupancy requirements
- Three-bedroom house
- Gas central heating
- Double-glazing
- Enclosed rear garden
- Parking

Rent £90.18 per week including service charges

MAES YR YSGOL, BARRY

H4U Reference 1051270
Suitable for a family meeting the maximum occupancy requirements
- Four-bedroom house
- Gas central heating
- Double-glazing
- Enclosed rear garden
- Parking

Rent £104.23 per week including service charges

MAES YR YSGOL, BARRY

H4U Reference 1084044
Suitable for a single person
- One-bedroom flat
- Gas central heating
- Double-glazing
- Parking

Rent £71.13 per week including service charges

MAIN STREET, BARRY

H4U Reference 946618
Suitable for a family meeting the maximum occupancy requirements
- Two-bedroom flat
- First floor
- Gas central heating
- Double-glazing
- Communal front door

Rent £81.62 per week including service charges

NEWHOUSE COURT, BARRY

Preference given to applicants with a two-bedroom need. People in receipt of pension credit considered.

H4U Reference 1100589
Suitable for applicants over 55 meeting the maximum occupancy requirements
- Two-bedroom flat
- First floor
- Central heating
- Double-glazing
- Shower cubicle

Rent £83.00 per week

ST LUKES AVENUE, PENARTH

H4U Reference 244967
Suitable for a family meeting the maximum occupancy requirements – no pets
- Two-bedroom flat
- Ground floor
- Central heating
- Double-glazing

Rent £85.69 per week including water charges

ST LUKES AVENUE, PENARTH

H4U Reference 245260
Suitable for a family meeting the maximum occupancy requirements – no pets
- Two-bedroom flat
- Second floor
- Central heating
- Double-glazing

Rent £85.69 per week including water charges

TY GWENFO, BARRY

H4U reference 1111804
Suitable for a single person – no pets
- One-bedroom flat
- First floor (no lift)
- Gas central heating
- Double glazing
- Parking

Rent £74.88 per week including service charges

VERE STREET, BARRY

H4U Reference 1086379
Suitable for a family with an older child – no pets
- Two-bedroom flat
- First floor (no lift)
- Gas central heating
- Double-glazing
- Communal front door

Rent £75.08 per week including service charges

VERE STREET, BARRY

H4U Reference 958249
Suitable for a single person – no pets
- One-bedroom flat
- Ground floor
- Gas central heating
- Double-glazing
- Communal front door

Rent £71.34 per week including service charges

WINCHESTER CLOSE, BARRY

H4U Reference 228420
Suitable for a family meeting the maximum occupancy requirements
- Three-bedroom house
- Central heating
- Double-glazing
- Gardens

Rent £97.96 per week including water charge

Visit the HOMES4U web page to view Immediately Available Homes
www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk

You must be a HOMES4U member to apply for any of these homes.
When bidding for more than one property you will be asked to state your order of preference.
All descriptions and other details are given in good faith and are believed to be correct but any potential tenant should satisfy themselves as to their correctness. Newydd is a charitable housing association.

Are you a council tenant who has been affected by the bedroom tax?

Would you like to discuss the options available to you?
If so, call our Money Advice Line on 01446 709312 for constructive, impartial advice.
This number is not a bidding line for properties in this advert.

Home ownership could be within your reach
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Two-bedroom house for sale - £147,000*

(*70% of market value £210,000)

This property is offered on a shared equity basis.

You will need to raise a mortgage for 70% of the market value, with Wales & West Housing retaining a 30% charge on the property.

Dependent on your mortgage provider, you may need a deposit of 5% (£7,350).

Eligibility criteria apply, including a local connections policy.

Contact WWH Housing Options Team on **0800 052 2526** or **housingstrategy@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk** for an application pack.

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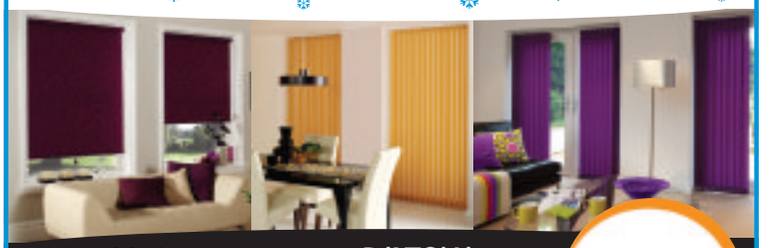

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Public Notice

PUBLIC NOTICE LICENSING ACT 2003

To whom it may concern. We, Peachkey Ltd do hereby give notice that we have applied to the licensing authority (Vale of Glamorgan Council) for a variation of a premises licence at Cardiff Road, Barry known as McDonald's Restaurant.

The application is to vary the licence to allow the in store to be open to the public 24 hours per day.

Any persons wishing to make representations to this application may do so in writing to: The Licensing Department, Vale of Glamorgan Council, Civic Offices, Holton Road, Barry CF63 4RU, not later than 28 days after the date of this notice. Representations received after this date will not be considered.

A copy of the application can be viewed at the Civic Offices during normal office hours. It is an offence knowingly or recklessly to make a false statement in connection with this application, the maximum fine on summary conviction being £5000.

16th January 2014.

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Family Notices

THOMAS
Robert

Robert, Auctioneer of Cowbridge, after a long illness bravely borne, on January 9th 2014, aged 83, loving husband of his dear wife, Enid, much loved father of Kay, Sally and Andrew and dear father-in-law of John, John and Lynne, a proud grandfather of his 11 grandchildren, all of whom adored him.

Funeral service at Ramoth United Free Church Cowbridge at 1.45pm on Tuesday, 28th January 2014, immediately followed by cremation at Coychurch Crematorium at 3.15pm. No flowers. If desired, donations to Marie Curie Cancer Care or Cancer Research UK c/o J W James, 11 Fonmon Road, Rhoose, CF62 3DZ.

SAVORY
Joan Eugenia

Janet, Robert and family would like to thank everyone who attended Joan's funeral and for the condolence cards received. Special thanks to the staff at the Waverley Care Centre for the care give to Joan. Also, Father Ben Andrews, the Seashore Grill and A.G. Adams and Son.

ELLIS
Graham

Suddenly, but peacefully, on January 1st, whilst on holiday in Truro, Graham, aged 71 years of The Knap, Barry.

Dearly loved husband of Jean, beloved father of the late Sara. Graham will be sadly missed by all his family and friends. Resting at A.G. Adams & Son funeral home, Gladstone Road, Barry, until the funeral on Wednesday January 29. Service at All Saints Church, Barry at 1.00pm, afterwards interment at Barry Cemetery. Family flowers only, if desired, donations may be handed to the funeral director after the funeral for Cancer Research.

KELLY
Iris

Suddenly on January 15 at Morriston Hospital, Iris of Llantwit Major, beloved wife of David, dearly loved mother of Andrea and James, dear mother-in-law of Gemma and much loved nanny of Lexi.

Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W James & Sons, Fonmon. Funeral Monday January 27, service 11.30am at St. Illtuds Church, Llantwit Major followed by interment in Llantwit Major Cemetery. Flowers may be sent to the Funeral Home.

CHAPPELL
Margaret Lavinia (neé Williams)

Peacefully on January 8 at Holme Tower Marie Curie Centre, Penarth, Margaret, of Welsh St Donats, beloved wife of the late John, sister of the late Jenny and Donald, will be sadly missed by all her family and friends.

Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W James & Sons, Fonmon. Funeral Monday January 27, service and cremation 3.45pm at Coychurch Crematorium, Bridgend. No flowers by request, donations if desired to Holme Tower Marie Curie Centre c/o Mrs C James, 11 Fonmon Road, Rhoose CF62 3DZ.

CANTY
John Freeman (Big Ace)

John's family would like to thank all those who attended his funeral and for all the messages and kindness shown at this sad time. Also, thanks for all the flowers and donations to Guillain Barre Syndrome.

Special thanks to Alan and staff at AG Adams & Sons funeral directors for all the help given.

Also a big thank you to all six bearers.

SPICKETT
David

Peacefully on Friday 17th January at the University Hospital of Wales, David, loving husband of Jackie, dear dad of Andrew and the late Jane, father-in-law of Jane. An adored Bamps of Riah, Ruby and Morgan, Bampi of Kiara and Kleo.

Resting in the private chapel of The Vale Funeral Service, 181 Court Road, Barry until his service at St Mary's Church, Holton Road, Barry on Monday 3rd February at 1.30pm followed by interment at Barry Cemetery.

Family flowers only, donations may be made at the service or sent to St Mary's Restoration Fund.

Further enquiries to Lyndsay Ellis @ The Vale Funeral Service 01446 407962.

WITCHARD
Stella Yvonne

Peacefully, on Sunday 5 January 2014 at St Barruc's Ward, Barry Hospital, after a long illness, Yvonne, of Colcot Road, Barry. Beloved wife of the late Brin, devoted mother of Susan, mother-in-law of Russell and dearly loved Grandma of David.

At her request, a private funeral service was held at the Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium, Barry on Friday 17 January 2014. Grateful thanks to the Rev Stewart Lisk who officiated at the service, to W. James & Sons, Fonmon who organised the funeral arrangements and a special thanks to the staff and volunteers of St Barruc's Ward who could not have cared better for Yvonne during the three years and seven months - they made it her home.

WORSWICK
Natalie Anne

Suddenly but peacefully at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital Birmingham, Natalie, much loved daughter of Neil and Viv, sister to Ceri and Andrew. Devoted mum to Courtney, much loved sister-in-law to Paul and Sarah, loving auntie to Ellie, Amelia and Isabella - will be sadly missed.

Funeral Service at Holy Cross Church, Cowbridge on Wednesday, 29th January at 1pm, followed by interment at the Limes Cemetery. Flowers may be sent to Thomas Brothers, Greengate, Ewenny Road, St Brides Major, CF32 0SB.

STICKLER-AUDREY
Winifred (nee Andrews)

Peacefully on 14th January 2014 at Abermill Care home, Caerphilly. Audrey aged 87 (previously of Oxford Street, Barry), much loved mother of Ruth and son-in-law Peter and nanna of Joanna and Michael. Audrey will be missed by all her family and friends.

Service and cremation at the Cardiff and Glamorgan Memorial Park and crematorium, Port Road East, Barry at 12pm on Monday 27th January. Family flowers only please. If so desired, donations to the Alzheimer's Society may be made during the retiring collection following the service or sent c/o Park Independent Funeral Directors, 7 Tynewyyd Road, Barry CF62 8HB.

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Photo
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Birthdays

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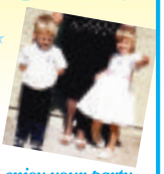
LISA & JOHN AUSTIN
Our twins are 30 on January 28th - we wish them a Happy Birthday!



Lots of love, enjoy your party, Nanny Mave Grampa Fred and all your family xxx

I Don't Believe it ...
DAVE POPE is 70
on 28th January 2014.
Wishing you a very Happy Birthday
Lots of Love
Carole and all the family xxx

Happy Birthday Leslie Colston
(NÉE MARSH)
on 19th January, 2014
Lots of Love, Jodie, Jason, Paul, Callum, Lara, Lydon & Seb *x x x*

Happy 18th Birthday to my Grandson
Paul Snooks (PJ)

on 26th January 2014
Lots of Love Nan & Bob xxx

Happy 18th Birthday
Paul Snooks (PJ) (Snooksy)
on 26th January 2014
To our little boy who's now all grown up.
Lots of love, Mum, Gramps and brother Callum *xxx*

International referee Nigel oversees Pencoed under-12s

PHIL STEELE on the microphone, hog roast on the go, match programmes, Nigel Owens in the middle and Pencoed under-12 stars forming a guard of honour..

Was this happening at a regional super stadium? No, it all happened on the main pitch at Pencoed RFC to celebrate their 125th anniversary. With the weather playing a part it almost didn't go ahead, so a big hand goes to all who lent a hand to work on the waterlogged pitch.

With the sun drying the pitch out, both sides lined up to do battle, Cwmbran traditionally take the spoils on recent encounters at 15-a-side.

Playing away from the clubhouse, Pencoed were focused and both sides tested each other in the early exchanges, with testing runs from Kieran, Joe Watts, Cory Lewis, Luke Hall, James, Griff, Jordan and Jack all making Cwmbran reorganise.

Man of match Matthew Oddy with Nigel Owens and Phil Steele.

Forwards formed a ruck in attack and Kieran took charge, making yards and troubling defenders, backed up by the pack, Cory span the ball wide to Curtis to offload to Joe to go more direct, before popping to Matt who stepped inside then out to dance around would-be defenders to dab down under the posts; the try was converted by Matt.

Cwmbran were quick out from their line and pressure forced an error. They set up quick ruck ball and swift hands put the ball through the backline to open their scoring; the try was converted.

A good period of attractive rugby from both sides followed, well marshalled by Mr Owens; Kieran received a short pass to bulldoze his way over through whoever stood in his way for a great individual effort to make it 12-7.

The tempo was good from both sides and given the conditions, there were few errors being made; confidence grew and the complete backline handled and fed for the forwards to recycle for Cory to plan a blind-side move with Griff supporting. It was stopped five metres short by the Cwmbran cover but quick thinking by blindside Jay saw him take the score to 17-7.

The halftime whistle went and coaches encouraged and supported the players, Tara got the oranges, Picton got the water, and all parents were pleasantly surprised by the scoreline.

At the start of the second half, two early scrums were pinched against the head by Drew, allowing the backline to readjust to make use of bonus possession, and the backs attacked well, supported by the forwards.

Cory passed short to Curtis, who stepped inside and spotted a gap to dart 40 metres untouched to touch down.

Cwmbran were still a force to be wary of and the level of physicality from both sides clearly surprised Mr Owens. Commitment in the tackle area was high and top efforts from Ben Lloyd, Griff, Matt, Max, Jay, Ellis, Lewis Drew Jack and Jordan saw them all put their bodies on the line.

The Pencoed forwards were comfortable with their own possession and from set plays right to left each opportunity was snuffed out by Cwmbran. It took a blind move from Curtis to pop the ball off the floor to Luke Hall, who supported well to receive and drive over to widen the scores to 27-7.

Back row (left to right): Steve Clarke, Pencoed linesman, WRU referee Nigel Owens, Peter's marketing manager Claire Conway, and Pencoed RFC chairman Mike Bosley.
Front row (left to right): Cwmbran under-12 captain Tommy McClean, Pencoed vice captain Max Phillips, Pencoed captain Curtis Palmer, Pencoed mascot and ball carrier Luke Hall.
ALL PICTURES BY JULIE HANCOCK - Visit juliehancock.org for more pictures.

Cwmbran didn't give up the battle, a credit to a quality team, and more pressure came from the visitors; a backline attack on the blindside was stopped short by Gruff Ben Lloyd and Matt before the pack arrived. Close quarter snipes failed to penetrate but when the ball was sent wide it was difficult to contain the pace of the Cwmbran's backs who grabbed a consolation try, the full time score 27-12.

The Magners man of the match, chosen by Phil Steele, was Matt Oddy – a great display Matt, well done.

With consideration to the squad ethos, Cwmbran agreed before the fixture that three periods would be played so that the newer members could experience playing at this intensity; unfortunately Mr Owens did not have enough time to officiate so Mr Bosley stepped up and ably filled Nigel's boots..

There were 10 changes to the home team and in sporting spirit Jack and Drew turned out for the visitors (in the centre and scrum). Cwmbran tested their endurance and initially Pencoed looked the livelier, Tommy, Ewan, Joe Stroud, Dafydd, Ben, Beck, Sam, Liam, Noah, James, Ellis Tyler and Luke Watkins all proving very powerful in attack and defence.

Both sides worked well, Ellis was quick to turnover ball and Noah, Sam and Luke Watkins went well at short range.

Tommy Ewan and Dafydd worked well going forward, marshalled by Jacob at outside half and in defence, while Ben Lloyd proved his fitness with an appearance in the third period.

The only score during this period saw Jack and Drew working well for Cwmbran, combining with a neat pop and offload in the centre area allowing the backs to continue to build on the move to see Cwmbran eventually recycle from the ruck to power over.

Pick of the bunch for this period were Noah for his go forward and defensive work and Dafydd, who attacked well at every opportunity – well done both!

A great phase to end the contest and the occasion, all boys who took to the pitch committed to the entertainment of the match and it was made that extra bit special having been able to secure the world class qualifications of Nigel Owens to referee the fixture.

Well done squad and all the coaches and backroom staff.

Chris Cadogan

Peters' Pies donated 125 tasty treats and new rugby balls to the club, as part of Peter's Slice of the Pie Community Fund, established to support deserving community groups, sports teams, schools and charities across south Wales.

Players and their families enjoyed the pies, pasties and sausage rolls donated by Peter's and Nigel Owens said: "Local businesses play an important role in helping grassroots rugby to develop and thrive. Decent equipment is essential, so the contribution from Peter's is greatly appreciated."

Claire Conway, marketing manager at the Caerphilly-based food giant, said: "Sport is a huge part of our ethos. Pencoed Junior RFC is a great club and we're proud this contribution will help train future rugby stars. We wish them the best of luck."

Mike Bosley, chairman of Pencoed Juniors RFC, helped the team apply for a slice of Peter's funding and said: "We are a successful section with many of our players proving themselves with district and Wales selection; however, it's a struggle to provide the equipment that they desperately need.

"We are delighted with the funding from Peter's and look forward to playing and competing with the brand new balls. Now, our players have better equipment to practice and play at a more professional level."

Readers in Bridgend can see more photographs of the game on page 26.

Rugby league trials in capital

WALES Rugby League will be holding open trials for both their South Wales Academy under 16 and Wales students' squads on February 2 at Cardiff Arms Park.

The under 16s trial starts at 1pm and players selected will form the squad which will play eight fixtures from February to July.

The Wales students trial starts at 2.30pm and players selected will form the squad which will play in the 2014 Student Four Nations Championship at Easter against sides from England, Ireland and Scotland.

WRL development manager Mark Jones said: "Wales Students have been very successful over the last 10 years. We are currently ranked third in the world and are the Four Nations champions.

"Many of our former student players have also been snapped-up by some of the biggest Rugby League clubs in the country and are now making substantially good careers for themselves as a result. Do you fancy the challenge too? Then please register and see what you can do."

To register for the trials, download a form by visiting http://media.rladmin.co.uk/docs/SW%20Academy%20U16%20Registration%20Form%202014.doc for under-16s, or http://media.rladmin.co.uk/docs/Wales%20Students%20Registration%20Form%202014.doc for students and return it to mark.jones@walesrugbyleague.co.uk by Friday, January 24.

Barry darts league round-up

LEAGUE leaders, The Cwm Talwg, lost their unbeaten record to defending champions, the Poachers.

The Poachers held a 2-5 lead after the first doubles leg but the Cwm Talwg won the last two legs to cut the margin to 4-5 overall.

Steve Moggeridge hit a 180 and Jon Hurn hit a 110 out shot during the match.

BFC Allsorts had a 6-3 victory over the Park Weasels and the Windsor Nomads came through a tight game, against the Billy Ghosts, with a 5-4 win.

The game between the Plastics C and the Dartonians was all square after the singles. The Plastics won all three doubles legs to gain a 6-3 victory; Craig Harris hit a 180.

In the first division, Caddy Cons Raiders pulled off a surprise victory over league leaders, The Throws of Despair, winning 6-3.

The Starlets lost 2-7 to the Mariners 66. Mary McKinney, from the Starlets hit a 106 out shot while Mike Copeland, from the Mariners, hit a 180 and a 103 out shot.

RL

Archery championships come to St Athan

The Drum Field Archers.

MoD St Athan Commanding Officer, Wing Commander Robert Balls, hosted archers from across the UK.

ON Sunday, January 12, as Lord Paramount, MoD St Athan Commanding Officer, Wing Commander Robert Balls, hosted archers from across the UK as they competed in the Welsh and Open Indoor Championships 2014.

The Welsh Field Archery Association event was arranged and hosted by the Llantwit Major Archers to whom MoD St Athan is their indoor winter training ground.

Over 50 archers took part in the event which had 21 classes containing six different styles of shooting. The team travelling the furthest, from Scotland, represented Drum Field Archers. They had driven from Edinburgh to take part in the event and went home with the only female member of the team, Louise Shingler, taking the title 'First Welsh Open Adult Female Unlimited Champion'.

Each archer shot 60 arrows from a distance of 20 yards into a target area determined by their class and the competition attracted archers with a wide range of age and experience.

Welsh team captain and current world champion, Gary Hart, won the Adult Male Unsighted Compound while Commonwealth Games participant Geraint Thomas, won Adult Male Unlimited with an outstanding score of 300/300 and an 'X count' of 58, which is a new Welsh record.

Younger archers were also represented and Daniel Goodwin (9) from Barry, who shoots for Llantwit Major Archers, is now first Welsh and Open Cub Male Sighted Recurve Champion.

Talent seems to run in the Goodwin family as mum, Teresa, took the title of first Welsh and Open Adult Female Sighted Recurve Champion.

Llantwit Major Archers general secretary, Colin Ketly, said: "Everyone has had a great day and the venue at St Athan has worked particularly well. To shoot 60 arrows is a challenge for everyone and it's been lovely to see the youngsters shooting so confidently alongside the adults."

Traditionally, the Lord Paramont presents the archers with their awards. On this occasion this role was held by Wing Commander Balls, who presented the winners with a ribboned medal.

Wing Commander Balls said: "The Llantwit Major Archers have a close affiliation with the RAF with Service personnel and their families being among their membership.

"Archery in Wales has a long and distinguished history and the skills of the archer have helped win many a military battle. It is good to know that now a sport it is still being practiced and enjoyed by the current generations of Welsh archers."

Competition results for Llantwit Major Archers: First, Welsh and Open Junior Female Unlimited Champion – Imogen Kent; first, Welsh and Open Junior Male Sighted Compound Champion Callum Mills; first, Welsh and Open Adult Male Sighted Recurve Champion – Mat Symmonds; first, Welsh and Open Adult Female Sighted Recurve Champion – Teresa Goodwin; First, Welsh and Open Cub Male Sighted Recurve Champion – Daniel Goodwin; first, Welsh and Open Adult Male Unsighted Recurve Champion – Bob Marriott; first, Welsh and Open Junior Male Unsighted Recurve Champion – Ieuan Graham.

Crack archer Daniel Goodwin.

Bombettes shut out Croesy

IN an eagerly-awaited first Cup fixture of 2014, the Barry women's rugby side, the Bombettes, overcame their visitors in a bruising encounter on Sunday, January 12 at Barry RFC.

This was a test of how far Bombettes had progressed since last year's Cup win against the same opponents and, as Second Division champions, they didn't disappoint.

On a bitterly cold afternoon, the Barry club fielded a strong squad and, with their growing confidence, played up the slope in the first half and went into the interval with a 0-0 scoreline.

The Bombettes' management used the bench well during the break, with the fresh legs of Husk and Richards replacing Phillips and Kath Jones, both of whom had put in a decent shift.

Becoming increasingly desperate, Croesyceiliog resorted to spoiling ball, fairly or otherwise, and, constantly infringing, as they were under great pressure.

The Bombettes eventually made the vital breakthrough when, using field position perfectly, Shanahan made a snipe down the blindside before Bannister and Fox handled and a perfectly-timed pass from the latter allowed sub Britton to use her pace and evade the defence for a corner try which went unconverted.

For Bombettes, Potter and Richards carried well, with O'Neil always running the ball back at the opposition and opening up the defence. Yapp tackled as if she was twice her size by seemingly jumping on any opponent who dared come near her; they shall not pass! Shanahan had her most influential game in both defence and attack.

Indeed, in a very tight game, it was hats off to a complete defensive display by every player. The management extended congratulations to the whole squad for a totally committed, dogged and professional performance and a well deserved first Cup victory but stressed the need to keep a full team on the pitch at all times.

The spokeswoman added: "The forwards laid the ground work but the whole squad take the plaudits. Special thanks to the super subs who didn't get on, to the intrepid supporters who braved the bracing conditions to watch and to Chris Clogg for amazing food."

Bombettes: O'Neill, Day-Smith, Fox, K Jones (captain), Binney, Bannister, Shanahan, Yapp, Young, Potter, Coleman, Helmore, Kath Jones, Phillips and Horne. Super subs: Richards, Husk, Rees, Britton and Smith.

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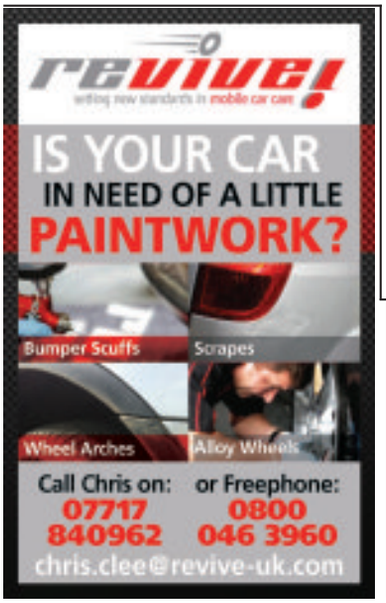

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Ffion Bowen, of Maesteg Celtic Ladies.

Ffion's call-up for the Six Nations!

BEING asked to represent your country is every sports player's dream.

Now that dream is about to come true for dental nurse Ffion Bowen, from Neath.

She has been selected to play for Wales in the Women's 6 Nations – just 18 months after taking up rugby.

Ffion is set to make her international debut against Italy at the Aberavon Rugby Club ground on Sunday, February 2.

To prepare for it she's putting in hours of extra training, which she has to fit around her full-time job in ABMU's dental training unit at Port Talbot Resource Centre.

Ffion plays for Maesteg Celtic Ladies and has been in the regional Ospreys select team.

She said: "I've only been playing rugby for around 18 months. I used to play netball but the club I was with in Neath stopped and I was looking for a different sport.

"Someone mentioned they were starting a new team for ladies at Maesteg Celtic.

"I went along and liked it, and carried on playing."

Last September, Ffion had a successful trial with the Ospreys, going on to play in all three of their Women's Regional Championship games.

After that she got her unexpected call-up for Wales.

Ffion, who is due to face Italy just days after her 23rd birthday, said: "I never expected to get this far. I didn't expect to get in the Ospreys team let alone be selected for Wales."

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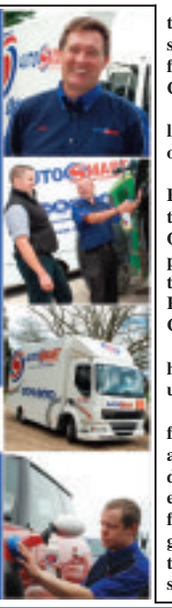

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GEM sport

BARRY SLIP TO DEFEAT AGAINST CLWB RYGBI...

BARRY RFC travelled the short distance to Pontcanna Fields last Saturday to face Clwb Rygbi Caerdydd.

They not only faced a team in the top three of the league, but also blizzard conditions and heavy rain, which fell throughout the afternoon.

The visitors enjoyed the lion's share of possession and territory from the outset. However, given the extremely difficult playing conditions, handling errors were inevitable and few clear-cut opportunities presented themselves.

Against the run of play Clwb Rugbi took the lead from an impressive long-distance rolling maul. Since this came from a lineout, perhaps Barry should have attacked the maul towards the touchline.

The home side extended their lead via an easy penalty. These setbacks spurred the visitors to greater efforts and with a dominant pack directed by Lee and O'Sullivan behind, they set up some good attacking positions near the CRC line.

Evans, Jones and Hollister were providing much momentum during this period. The home side needed to resort to an array of illegal tactics, which should have earned CRC at least a yellow card.

The referee eventually lost his patience and awarded Barry a penalty try; 10-7 to the hosts was the halftime score.

The second session started with so much mud and water covering the players that it became increasingly difficult to distinguish between the teams.

Barry fell further behind from the outset from a needless penalty. The home team were using their possession very cleverly via the fly half, who was kicking to good effect and continually put Barry on the back foot. He was the difference between the sides throughout the match.

A scrambled try for CRC on the stroke of full time made the result a flattering 18–7 in their favour.

Barry: Ryan, Adams, Buckland, Provis, Scott, Scott, Lee, O'Sullivan, Jones ©, Scott, Tanner, Jones, Hollister, Evans, O'Sullivan.

This Saturday, Llantwit Major are entertained at the Reservoir Field with kick off at 2.30pm.

CO

... But the Bombettes pile on the points against Sea View ladies!

BARRY BOMBETTES had patiently waited for this fixture against Sea View for over two seasons.

Due to the recent monsoon weather, the venue had to be changed to the Barry RFC pitch. Both sets of supporters, to their credit, showed their loyalty and turned out in numbers under the welcome sunshine.

The game was played in typical local derby cut and thrust endeavour. From the outset Barry showed how far they have progressed with regards the importance of tactical play.

With the knowledge of being a player up from the outset, Barry took the game to Sea View, forwards initially making the hard yards before the ball was shipped efficiently to the backs and within five minutes Fox-Mabe touched down after excellent passing by the backs.

A further two tries came in quick succession, but Sea View came back strongly, taking the fight to Barry for the next 10 minutes.

Barry's defence was solid and when the visitors tried to kick for territory O'Neill ran the ball back with gusto. The home side then came alive again and with clever link up play and offloading, Barry avoided the contact and scored more tries, all under the posts for captain K Jones to convert.

Dani Young went off injured to be replaced by the fleetfooted Sophie Davies.

With the halftime whistle, the Bombettes utilised their bench to freshen things up and give vital experience to some new players. The players that came on just slotted into the game as if they had been there all the time; the visitors didn't have that luxury alas.

The second half continued as the first half had, with Barry pressuring every aspect of the visitors' game. As with any local rugby derby, matters got a little heated at times, but rugby was the winner.

Barry's try scorers were: Bannister, Shanhan, Fox-Mabe, O Neill, Binnie, Perry, S Davies, Richards, K Jones (c), and special mention for their first game for Hannah Scott and Amy Smith, who also managed to score her first try.

The variety of scorers illustrates the teamwork and support play displayed. Captain Jones also kicked numerous conversions, with Richards slotting over one.

Sea View deserve massive recognition for their 'never-say-die' attitude; they tackled their hearts out and never stopped. Although they were hampered by injuries they fought to the end. The Sea View full back was deservedly chosen as Barry's woman of the match as she tackled herself to a standstill. Barry woman of the match was O'Neill and Sea View chose Perry.

Team: O'Neill, Rees, Fox-Mabe, K Jones (c), Binnie, Bannister, Shanahan, Yapp, Young, Potter, Coleman, Helmore, Kath Jones, Phillips and Cahill. Substitutes: Richards, Husk, Horne, Davies, Day-Smith, Scott and Smith.

The management would like to congratulate the whole team for a total 80 minutes of rugby. Also appreciation to Sea View for upholding the fixture and many thanks to the chefs for the food.

The next fixture for the Bombettes is away at Gorseinon on Sunday February 2, against Tylorstown; come and support your green & white team!

AM

Emphatic win for the Barry thirds

AFTER the postponement of their league game against Whitchurch 2nd XV due to adverse weather, Barry 3rd XV found themselves visiting St Peters for a friendly match.

No less than seven players dropped out on the eve of the match, and the job for caretaker manager Ken Chow was further complicated when centre Ethan Dix pulled up in the warm up.

He was therefore forced to change his plans, with Sion Vidal anchoring the scrum at No 8, Chris Bailey switching to full back from wing, and Chow putting himself on the bench.

Given the disruptions, it was no surprise that St Peters had the upper hand in the early proceedings, having the lion's share of possession and territory.

Barry, however, did not allow them to get through their defence with some resolute defending, led by inspirational captain Lloyd Jones.

When Barry finally gained possession, fly-half Corrigan used his boot superbly to gain his side the territory, and from then on the pack piled on the pressure on their opposite number.

A quick tap penalty by Corrigan saw the ball spread out wide to Jason Thomas, who crashed over to score; the conversion was missed.

With Barry now in the ascendency they struck again. Joe Gallivan made the break from deep, and from then on Tom Adams' pace did the rest, touching down under the posts for a converted score.

St Peters struck back with two unconverted scores before halftime to narrow the deficit to two points. At the interval, the game was hanging in the balance.

Chow made attacking substitutions at halftime and it paid immediate dividends, as a revitalised pack saw the visitors venture deep into the opposition half again.

An opportunistic kick forward was pounced gratefully upon by David Williams, whose try gave his side the breathing space. Corrigan failed to add the extras.

This time the floodgates did open. St Peters were enterprising with ball in hand, but had little answer when they were on the back foot.

There were fine breaks by Vidal, Jones, Rolfe and Hall, and when the ball was given to the backs, Avaient and Williams made extra yards. With the play on the St Peters line, Nick Lundy dived through the score his side's fourth try. The conversion was a formality.

Williams added his second try, again unconverted, before Corrigan himself got beyond the try line following excellent work by Vidal. He added two more points with his boot to take his personal tally for the game to 11.

The hosts struck back with two well-worked tries to once again narrow the deficit, hreatening an improbable comeback.

That threat was immediately snuffed out, however, when a flowing move from behind the Barry 22, involving almost every single player in the team, finished off with Lucas Davies diving over under the posts for his first try for the club.

The final score was 41-20 to the visitors and was in no way an unfair reflection on Barry's stranglehold on the game, especially the second half.

The management would like to thank all the players for the effort and commitment and hope to carry this momentum forward to the next game.

Barry 3rd XV return to league action this weekend at home to Old Illtydians, while the 2nd XV are away at Cardiff Harlequins.

Team: Bailey; Rees, Williams, Avaient, Adams; Corrigan, Gallivan; Thomas, Davies, Houldey; Moffat, Hall; M Jones, L Jones (c), Vidal

Replacements: Lundy, Rolfe, Templeman. Subs not used: Dix, Chow. Man-of-the-match: Hall.

KC

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NEWS FROM THE BARRY CHESS CLUB

A woeful week for league sides

THIS week saw a further three games for the Barry Chess Club, starting with two home fixtures for the Camelots and Gambits, followed by an away match for the Quarks.

First, it was round six in the matches between Barry and Caerphilly. It was only the other week that the Caerphilly Kings narrowly defeated our Bosons side, but this time they reintroduced Ioan Rees into their ranks.

He is the fourth highest rated player in Wales but rarely plays league chess due to other commitments. On this occasion, Lee Davis earned a very good draw with Ioan.

Ken Hannah also earned a draw but that was all the Camelots could get, losing the match 4–1.

After commenting last week that when these teams meet Rhys Steele always plays Rod Gough, it seems inevitable that when one of them is not selected, then neither is the other.

So, on this occasion Rhys was able to watch his teammates struggle but Rod was nowhere to be seen.

The Camelots drop to seventh in the table, having played one more game than the other teams around them.

They do, however, have a seven-point advantage over the relegation-threatened teams, and with seven games to go, it will require a collapse of Gambit proportions to see them flirt with relegation.

In division four, the Gambits played host to the surprise team of the season, Rhondda. For the fourth consecutive game they succumbed by a margin of 1.5–3.5.

Perhaps the standout performance came from Jason Grice to earn a draw on board five against an experienced player rated over 100 points above him.

While in this division there is no threat of relegation, the prospects of promotion seem a distant memory, particularly when the Bridgend Central Xpress team are on a roll. Having only picked up a draw in their first five matches, they now have five consecutive wins to move up to fourth.

The Quarks later travelled to Cardiff to take on the Crowns, who stand just outside the relegation places in seventh position. In rating terms the two teams were evenly matched.

The game ended in a draw, with wins for Ken Hannah, again, and a rejuvenated Peter Watkins, with the ever-reliable Kevin Gandy adding a draw.

This result moves the Quarks above the North Cardiff Cheetahs by virtue of an extra draw to give them a 6–5 match point advantage. The Quarks remain 2.5 points away from safety but have a vital match against the Cheetahs to come next.

The Barry Chess Club meets at 7.30 pm each Monday at the West End Club, St Nicholas Road, Barry CF62 6QY. The club is open to players of all standards; whether interested in playing competitive chess or just the occasional friendly game.

New players are very welcome. For more details, visit the website at: barrychessclub.yolasite.com

PHIL JONES

Brynhill golf club results

JANUARY 19:

1st Keith Stephenson & Steve Price 52 points, 2nd Clive Cureton & Glyn Morris 51 points, 3rd Steve Gould & Steve Micklethwaite 50 points (Back 9 = 27).

There were 39 pairs competing, and Kevin Perry & Bob Bounds, and Steve Jones & Martin Rees were disqualified for failing to sign in the competition entry book; results subject to scrutiny.

CS